

PLANES WITH PURPOSE

News from the Hammitt Family

October 2022

A SKILL FOR A LIFETIME

Greetings from Bolivia! If you have been following our newsletters, you know that one of the ministries we support through our role with ITM is the *Centro Bíblico Misionero* in San Lorenzo de Moxos. The purpose of the CBM is to teach and train indigenous believers who can then return to their communities and teach others in their native languages, including Tsimane, Yuracaré, and Trinitario.

Last month the CBM staff posted a couple of encouraging social media updates for International Literacy Day, and we wanted to share them here. We've paraphrased and combined elements of the two posts, originally in Spanish:

"We joyfully celebrate this day! Thanks to the literacy classes, several of our brothers and sisters are learning to read and write. Each day they spend an hour and a half practicing new syllables and words. In addition, they are reading short stories to improve their comprehension.

"Those who already know how to read and write are taking classes in reading comprehension and spelling. The goal is to improve their understanding of the Bible, and to help them learn to ask questions as they read the Word of God.

"Our desire at the CBM is that our students learn to read the Bible on their own. We know that only God's Word can produce true heart change in people, and our heart as CBM teachers is that each student would be able to receive spiritual nourishment from God's Word as they read it for themselves."

We are grateful that we can support the CBM and the other ministries of ITM. Even though we aren't personally present in San Lorenzo, we know that the work that we do in aviation, administration, and hospitality helps to keep the ministries of ITM going strong.

HANGAR HAPPENINGS

There has been a lot of maintenance going on in the hangar lately! This is good because it means we are making progress toward flying again, but also means our airplanes continue to be grounded.

We have shared in past newsletters that our Cessna 206 (the airplane Aaron flies) has been out of service since last September. In addition, we recently purchased a Piper Navajo from another organization in Bolivia, and shortly after purchasing it we discovered a problem with the right engine. The left engine was almost due for overhaul anyway, so we pulled both engines and took the opportunity to do some additional maintenance while we were waiting for the replacement engines.



A few of our current students at the CBM.



Some of the Bolivian mechanics finishing the engine installation on the Navajo.



Preparing the 206 fuselage for paint.



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We are thankful to the Lord for another organization (Agape Flights) that donated two engines to us. In an unfortunate situation, their Navajo in Haiti was burned. But the engines survived the fire and ended up as an unexpected blessing for ITM.

While we work toward getting the Navajo flying again, we have also been repairing and repainting the Cessna 206 and preparing it to be reassembled. We are nearly finished painting, and almost ready to begin the assembly process. It feels good to be making progress, but there is still a lot of work to be done!

Finally, once the airplanes are ready to fly, we will apply for new airworthiness certificates. In the USA, this certificate never expires, and an authorized inspector can return an airplane to service. But in Bolivia, the government must issue a new certificate every year, which can take weeks or months.

Please continue to pray with us that we can be flying again soon!



Ian and Ella have participated in a few activities with the young adults from church. We are still trusting God for more such opportunities.



Someone loves to "help" mom in the kitchen!



In August, we celebrated Ian's 18th birthday. In Bolivia the driving age is 18, and he recently passed his driving exam. We are proud of him for passing the theory test in Spanish, and for getting through the driving test—which many experienced drivers fail the first time—without any errors.

We are thankful. . .

- ▶ for progress toward Aaron's Bolivian pilot certificate, although it's taking much longer than anticipated.
- ▶ that Ian passed his Bolivian driver's test.
- ▶ for healing of Tara's back pain.
- ▶ for progress on the repairs of our airplanes.

Please pray with us. . .

- ▶ for completion of the repairs and approvals needed to get the airplanes flying again.
- ▶ for wisdom regarding educational options.
- ▶ that Aaron can complete the final steps necessary to get his Bolivian pilot certificate.

IT'S JUST DIFFERENT...

Over the years, we (Aaron and Tara) have served internationally in various capacities. As teens and young adults, we went on various short-term mission trips ranging from two to eight weeks in duration. We later spent two years in East Asia—not quite long-term, but long enough to begin learning and adapting to the language and culture. Most recently we moved our family to Bolivia to serve long-term. We have found that there is a big difference between a short-term mission trip and living internationally.

As COVID restrictions have eased, short-term teams have started coming to Bolivia again. We have really enjoyed helping to host the teams, but hearing their testimonies has helped us realize that despite living here for three years, our children have not had many of the experiences that make such a positive, lasting impression on the teens who have come to visit. On a mission trip, you generally see the best of a country and culture. The host organization typically works hard to create a positive experience. On the other hand, Ian and Ella have had to cope with the difficulty and isolation of leaving everything they knew and adjusting to life in another culture.

Recognizing this, we have been making efforts to get them tied in with some of the groups that come to Bolivia. We traveled to a Quechua village with a team from Georgia, where we put on a program for the children in the community. Ian and Ella recently volunteered with another group that came to paint a children's home in Cochabamba. It has been good for them to serve with others their age and to make some new friends. At the same time it is difficult when those new friends go back to the United States.

We appreciate your prayers for our family, that the Lord will help all of us to thrive as we live and serve in Bolivia.

