

PLANES WITH PURPOSE

News from the Hammitt Family

October 2023

MAKING MORE THAN PILOTS

In September, a new semester began at the Melbourne, Florida chapter of Wings of Grace Ministries. About 40 students gathered to begin or continue their journey toward becoming pilots. If they complete the program, they will earn their private pilot certificates, accruing one flight hour for each six hours that they devote to volunteer service days. Although we want to create proficient, professional pilots, our desire for these teens goes beyond simply making them into aviation professionals.

Our weekly meetings consist of aviation ground school, social activities, and a devotional teaching followed by small group discussions. We are spending several weeks of the semester on a high-level overview of the Bible and its main story lines. Many of the students are believers, but others have minimal exposure to the Bible. Our hope is that this study will be a first step in moving them closer to understanding God's plan of salvation and redemption. The small groups have been a great way for us to hear from the students on a personal level, and we look forward to developing deeper connections with them throughout the year.

Please pray that the Lord will use us in the lives of these teenagers during the short time that we have with them. Aaron's desire is still to obtain his CFI (certified flight instructor) certificate, but a lack of time and resources have made it difficult. Being a CFI would open up more opportunities for influence in the lives of the students, but we are praying about whether Aaron should continue to pursue it. Regardless, our prayer for these teens is that they will not only become great pilots, but more importantly, faithful disciples of Jesus.

LOOKING AHEAD

We have a lot to do while we are in the United States, and we know that our time here will go by quickly. Ella will start college next year, so we are helping prepare her for that. As far as ministry goes, there are also some things we'd like to accomplish to prepare us to be more effective when we return to overseas ministry. For Aaron, these include continuing to gain aviation experience and getting his commercial multiengine pilot's license.

We would also like to maintain, if not improve, our Spanish language skills. We are attending a Spanish-speaking church on Wednesdays and looking for other opportunities to make connections with Spanish speakers in our community. Please pray for us as we trust the Lord to continue to develop and prepare us to return to overseas ministry.



About 40 students gathered for the first meeting of the Melbourne chapter of Wings of Grace.



We are thankful that Aaron can continue gaining flight experience while we are in the States.



Aaron recently had the opportunity to visit Agape Flights, who provided engines for one of ITM's airplanes in Bolivia.



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We are thankful. . .

- ▶ that Ella finished her classes at Liberty University Online Academy and will be able to finish her senior year in-person at Pineapple Cove in Florida.
- ▶ that Aliza received a grant to attend Calvary Chapel Academy. She is loving it!

Please pray with us. . .

- ▶ for Ian, Ella, and Aliza as they all adjust to new schools.
- ▶ for Aaron and Tara as we help to guide them through this time of transition.
- ▶ That God would use us to minister to our neighbors and our community.



Ian has started classes at the University of Toledo, but flew down to spend his birthday with us.



Aliza has been asking to go kayaking for a long time. We finally got out on the water for some daddy-daughter time!



It's hard to believe we had a son start college and a daughter start kindergarten in the same year!

A RENEWED PASSION FOR THE WORLD

The first week in October was a missions emphasis week at our local church. It was exciting to hear how God is at work all around the world. Three missionaries shared with us about their ministries: among Pakistani Muslims in London, with Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, and planting churches in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Hearing the stories of these missionaries renewed our excitement for taking the Good News about Jesus to unreached people around the world. While there are people everywhere who need Him, our desire is to be engaged in reaching people groups and communities who have no one to tell them the Good News.

As many people have said, there is a reason that the unreached are still unreached. If it was easy, they would have heard about Jesus by now! The challenges include closed borders, laws and regulations, hostility toward the Gospel, geographical barriers, cultural differences, and an enemy who does not want to give up his territory—just to name a few. We have confronted some of these challenges over the last few years, and at times have faced discouragement because of that. Yet we trust that God is at work even when we can't clearly see His plan.

Aaron has been reading the story of Joseph the last few days, and just came to the part of the story where Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. Joseph assures them that it

was God, not his brothers, that sent Joseph ahead of them in order to preserve his family and many others. I thought about all the years that Joseph spent as a slave and then as a prisoner after having been unjustly accused. As far as we know, God did not reveal his plan to Joseph in the midst of those trials. Yet, if Joseph would have given up or turned from the God of his fathers, he never would have known the true purpose in all of it.

It is our deep desire to be personally involved in reaching the last of the nations and people groups that haven't heard the Gospel, or that lack established, healthy churches. Aviation is a means to overcome geographical barriers, and we believe that it was God who provided the opportunity to receive the specialized training and experience to fly airplanes carrying missionaries and supplies safely into remote communities that need Jesus.

We are thankful for the time that we were in Bolivia doing just that, and trust the Lord to send us back in His time. In the meantime, please pray that the Lord would continue to mold and shape us during this season, and that we would be attentive and responsive to the opportunities he places before us. Finally, please pray that the Lord will continue to provide for our needs through our time in the United States so that we can continue serving full-time in ministry. Thank you for your partnership, prayers, and support!

