

# PLANES WITH PURPOSE

News from the Hammitt Family

July 2019

## Where is home, exactly?

The more we move, the more difficult it becomes to define what *home* actually means. We've found ourselves leaving North Carolina to travel "home" for a holiday, then returning "home" a week later. Soon, we will move to Bolivia and establish yet another place to call home! Moving frequently presents challenges and can raise questions of identity, but is also a blessing because we have meaningful relationships in many locations. Moving is hard, but it's a joy to reconnect with friends and family as we travel from place to place.

For the next few weeks we have established a temporary home base in Ohio while we meet with churches and ministry partners in the Midwest and do the last of our packing and sorting. We are grateful that the Lord has provided a house for us, making it much easier to accomplish all that we need to do during this time.

Speaking of houses, we also have a house lined up in Bolivia. This is a huge answer to prayer! It has adequate space for our family, as well as some extra room for guests when they come to visit. In fact, it's the same place we stayed when we visited Cochabamba last December! This is great because there is now some sense of familiarity as we prepare to move to a largely unfamiliar city.

Please continue to pray for us as we are in this season of transition. Pray that we can establish a strong family identity even in the midst of many physical moves, and that the Lord would be preparing relationships for each member of our family in Bolivia.



*At the end of June we said goodbye to our house in North Carolina.*



*Aaron's toolbox was one of the few items that could be crated and shipped in a container to Bolivia. Lord willing, we will receive it in a few months!*



*Another school year is in the books! Ian and Ella have enjoyed their time at BCA.*

## Support Update

We are grateful that most of our ministry partners have decided to stay with us as we begin serving with International Tribal Ministries. Thank you so much! If you haven't made the decision to invest financially in our ministry, it's not too late! We are within \$250 of our goal for monthly financial support, but still have more than \$10,000 in one-time expenses (plane tickets, language school, etc.) that have not been covered.

You can also partner with us by praying for our family and the work of ITM in Bolivia. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we have become more and more convinced of the critical role that prayer plays in supporting those on the mission field. It is vital to our longevity in this ministry!



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## Family Corner

### We are thankful for:

- ✧ our families (biological and church), who have done so much to help us during this time of transition.
- ✧ a place to stay in Ohio while we prepare for our final move to Bolivia in August.
- ✧ the house that God provided for us in Cochabamba.

### Please pray with us for:

- ✧ our move, transition, and adjustment to Bolivia.
- ✧ the additional financial support we need to raise before moving.
- ✧ good relationships to be waiting for us!



*Apparently Aliza is already too big for the baby swing.*



*Ian and Ella have grown quite a lot since their first time at Mr. Freeze!*



*We've had the opportunity to make use of our kayaks a few times before leaving the country.*



*Then and now: we said goodbye to our faithful Pontiac Vibe that served our family well from 2007–2019.*

### My complicated relationship with *stuff*

Soon, each member of our family will board an airplane with our carry-on luggage and two suitcases. We've spent a lot of time (what seems like way *too much* time) sorting through every one of our earthly possessions. We have taken several carloads to the donation center, disposed of things not worth keeping, and sold items that are worth the time and effort. Our goal is to end up with only those things that are important enough to fit in those two suitcases, or valuable enough to store. It has been an exhausting process, and has led me to re-evaluate my relationship with *stuff*.

In the United States, we seem to be sold on the idea that *more stuff = more happiness*. This may be changing (I'm thinking of Marie Kondo), but we are undoubtedly a consumer-oriented society. This is no new revelation, but since we've begun this process of downsizing (again), I've become hyper-aware of it. I can't walk through Walmart or Home Depot without seeing a hundred different ways that they are trying to sell me more things

that I don't need. In fact, I don't even have to leave my house; Amazon will send me almost anything I desire within two days!

Yes, that new gadget might make some aspect of my life marginally more convenient, but there is a cost beyond the purchase price. Every *thing* demands a place in my home and just a little bit of my attention. A thousand small *things* can add up to a large burden and become a distraction from what's really important.

Jesus said that we cannot love God and money (possessions). I've never thought of myself as *loving* possessions, but I sure have a lot—and find it surprisingly difficult to part with many of them! Jesus' desire is to free us from the burdens that the world would place on us. First and foremost, he frees us from the bondage of sin. But he can also release us from the compulsion to acquire new things. This frees time and resources for the people and activities that are really important. May my attachment to the things of this world decrease and my affection for Him increase!

