

# Planes with Purpose

An Update from the Hammitt Family

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## Rapid Response: Waco, Texas

In our last newsletter I shared that I had recently finished overhauling an engine for The Harvest is Ripe Ministries. Shortly after writing that newsletter I had the opportunity to travel to Waco to help install the engine (and an engine overhauled by another shop) on their Twin Comanche. When Jim Newman, Jason Maust and I arrived in Waco, we found that there was more to be done than we had originally anticipated. The three of us completed our main task of installing the two engines, and we got a good start on some other maintenance and repairs, but unfortunately we were not able to get the airplane into an airworthy condition in the time allotted for our trip.

Although we were a little discouraged by the setbacks we experienced, our trip was fruitful. We further developed our relationship with Victor Crawford (the head of the ministry) and helped him build connections with others who are working with him to bring the project to completion. We were also encouraged by our hosts Ron and Susan Snyder, who housed and fed us during our week in Waco. It was a joy to be one of many members of the Body of Christ working together to support Victor's work for the Kingdom of God.

If you haven't seen the highlight video from the trip, you can find it on my Vimeo page at [www.vimeo.com/aaronhammitt](http://www.vimeo.com/aaronhammitt).

## MAG's C172 Gets a New Look!

In December, I began working under the supervision of Mike Garrett and Chuck Egbert on Missionary Air Group's Cessna 172. It will be used primarily for training missionary pilots in North Carolina. In fact, I will be the first missionary pilot trained in this airplane!

My first task was to help Chuck install new windows. After the three rear windows were installed I worked with him and several other apprentices to prepare the airplane for a new coat of paint. Finally, I assisted Mike and Josh with the painting, installed and removed paint masks, and helped with final detailing.

As I've shared in the past, repainting the airplane has a more important purpose than simply giving it a pretty exterior. When we strip the old paint, it helps us discover hidden corrosion so we can address problem areas. The new paint protects the airplane from the elements and helps prevent future corrosion.

That said, the team did a great job, and I certainly won't complain about flying such a beautiful airplane!



*Aaron prepares the left engine for installation on a Twin Comanche for The Harvest is Ripe Ministries.*



*Aaron works with Chuck and Jenny to prepare MAG's Cessna 172 for paint.*



*Here is the 172 in our paint booth, after shooting the final coat of red paint and removing most of the masks.*



## Kids' Corner

### Prayer Points

#### *We give thanks for...*

- ... time spent with family over Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- ... the opportunity to travel to New York State and visit some friends we haven't seen in years.

#### *Please join us in praying for...*

- ... a strong finish for Aaron's apprenticeship. He should be done by August of this year.
- ... the spiritual health of our family; that we would continue to grow in Christ-likeness.

### A Living Hope

There is a popular new worship song with the chorus, "You're a good, good Father; it's who you are" and another refrain, "You are perfect in all of your ways." These words are true, and for many of us it wouldn't be difficult to sing them on any given Sunday morning. But I recently attended a worship service where this song was being sung as I stood near a friend who is battling cancer for the fourth time. As I stood there, singing alongside her and her husband, I wondered if the words "You are perfect in all of your ways" would flow so freely if I was in his (or her) situation. I hope and trust that I would continue to sing and believe the truth of God's goodness, but those words would certainly carry greater weight and meaning for me in the midst of such trials.

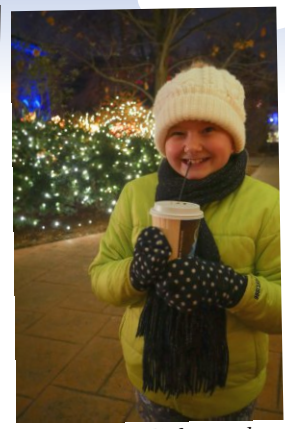
When faced with adversity and suffering it is common for people in the church, to ask, "Why?" and even question the character of a God who allows such pain and suffering. But is this any wonder, when so much preaching and teaching is concerned with improving our lives here on earth? I have found myself frequently reminded that our ultimate hope is not in this world, which is corrupted by sin, death and evil. That doesn't mean we can neglect the needs that we see around us here on earth, but as the apostle Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 15, "If in Christ we have hope in this



*Is that R2D2, or our 10-year old daughter? Happy Birthday, Ella!*



*After visiting friends in upstate New York, we made a quick trip to NYC. Ian was excited to see Empire State Building.*



*Christmas lights at the Toledo Zoo and hot chocolate: a perfect combination!*



*Some friends invited us to the lights at the Columbus Zoo before we went back to Northwest Ohio for the holidays.*



*During our visit to upstate New York, we visited a science museum where Ian spent some time building this creation.*

life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." He goes on to explain that our hope is in the resurrection of Christ, and our future resurrection to eternal life. Peter also reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus: "According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

We just came out of the Christmas season, where we set aside extra time to celebrate the coming of Christ into our world to reconcile us to himself. In a few months, we'll celebrate Easter: the resurrection of Christ, in which we find our great hope. But in all seasons, my prayer is that you and I would continue to look for his coming with anticipation as we strive toward the goal of reaching every person on this planet with God's love, that they might be reconciled to God in Christ and receive that living hope through Him.

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