

Planes with Purpose

An Update from the Hammitt Family

Vol. 4, Issue 4 (October 2016)

Introducing MMS's Newest A&P Mechanic!

In early August, I completed my 30-month, 4800-hour maintenance apprenticeship at MMS Aviation, and subsequently passed the FAA written exams. Finally, on August 30th, I passed my oral and practical examinations, and received my Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Certificate! Now that I've completed the maintenance portion of my apprenticeship, our family is preparing to move to Burlington, North Carolina for the flight phase of the apprenticeship.

As you may recall, I will have the opportunity to put my mechanic's certificate to use in Burlington, helping with maintenance and routine inspections on MAG's fleet of airplanes. However, my primary focus will shift from maintenance to flight—earning the ratings and gaining the experience to be a safe and proficient pilot on the mission field.

We are hoping to make the move to Burlington in November, and appreciate your prayers for our family during this time of transition!

A Time of Refreshing

August was a very busy month, with lots of studying and examinations. We also began to sort, purge, and pack our belongings in preparation for our move to Burlington. After such an intense month, we decided to take advantage of the transitional time between Coshocton and Burlington to refresh as a family.

We first spent a long Labor Day weekend in Tennessee with Aaron's side of the family, where the kids enjoyed extended time with their cousins and grandparents. We then got in the car and headed west to visit several of our national parks. It was good for our family to get away from the busyness of life and spend some extended time together. It was a joy for us to share with our kids the unique beauty of God's creation that's found in America's Southwest. Each of the places we visited or drove through—Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, Red Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Arches National Park—offered something different and beautiful, and it was a joy to share these experiences with our children.

We wrapped up our trip by visiting Tara's grandmother in Colorado, giving her the chance to meet her great-grandchildren for the first time. The remainder of our trip home was an adventure in itself, and I'll share more about that on the back page of this newsletter.



Upon completing his apprenticeship in August, Aaron handed the "senior apprentice" wrench over to Glen Evert.



Dwight Jarboe (MMS's President, CEO and designated maintenance examiner) looks on as Aaron completes one of the practical tasks assigned during his examination.



One of our favorite experiences of the past few weeks was hiking The Narrows at Zion National Park. There are few places where we've seen more of the beauty of God's creation!



Prayer Points

We give thanks...

... for God's grace, comfort, and provision through the trials we endured in September.

... that Aaron earned his A&P mechanic certificate in August.

Please join us in praying for...

... continued healing after the loss of our unborn baby boy.

... our move to Burlington, NC, and all that is involved with this transition.

Our Trials; God's Faithfulness

As we shared on the front page, we took advantage of the transitional time between Coshocton and Burlington to spend a couple weeks together as a family, to refresh and prepare for the next phase of our life and ministry. I was praying that we would grow closer during this time, but little did I know that my prayer would be answered in such an unexpected way, or that it would involve such trials as we faced on our way back to Ohio.

After our final stop in Colorado, we got in the car and started driving home—a trip we expected to take three days, including a stop to see friends in Indiana. However, we barely made it out of Colorado and into Kansas when our engine started producing some noises that prompted me to pull the car over immediately. To make a long story short, the engine was damaged internally, needing to be replaced or rebuilt.

There is something special about the desperation you feel when you are stranded on the side of the road with your family in a place as remote and unfamiliar as northwest Kansas. We were able to get the car towed and find a motel room for the night. But in a town of 4500 people, there were limited options for car repair or replacement, and we had no idea who to trust. Not knowing what else to do, I found some local churches online, left them emails and voicemails, and prayed that someone would respond to our request for help.

We serve with **MMS Aviation**
P.O. Box 1118
Coshocton, OH 43812
(740) 622-6848
www.mmsaviation.org

Kids' Corner



We celebrated Ian's 12th birthday in August.



Relaxing by the lake in Tennessee: a perfect place to play ukulele.



Hiking Bryce Canyon. These two may not admit it, but they are best friends!



Ella is soaking up some rays a mile above the Colorado River.

The next morning we received a call from Pastor Tim at Goodland Bible Church. He offered to give us a ride to a store where we could buy groceries for the next few days. As he and his wife Sarah got to know and trust us, we began to develop a friendship with them. They not only introduced us to a good mechanic, but invited us into their home for meals and fellowship. They also helped us through one of the more difficult experiences of our lives, which brings me to some sad news that we need to share.

We had hoped to announce in this letter that we were expecting our third child, due in March 2017. In fact we had already announced it to family and friends, and on social media. But on September 24, as we sat in the motel room, Tara knew something wasn't right with the baby. Pastor Tim took us to a medical center where Tara delivered our son, Ezra, after 16 weeks of pregnancy. There is so much I could say about the loss of our baby boy, and all that Tara went through, and I did write a bit more on our blog (PlanesWithPurpose.com). But that's not how we want to end this letter.

As we found ourselves in a place of desperation, helplessness, and brokenness, the Lord proved Himself faithful. He comforted us and provided for every need through our new friends in Kansas, as well friends, family and churches back in Ohio and across the country. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and generosity! The Lord used this trial to remind us of the hope we have in Christ, that He is good at all times and in all places, and that we can trust Him to sustain us and provide our every need.

