



Planes with Purpose

An Update from the Hammitt Family

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We're traveling to Bolivia!

This December, our family will travel to Cochabamba, Bolivia to spend a week with an organization called International Tribal Ministries. For a couple years we have been considering the possibility of serving with them when Aaron completes his flight training, and the timing has finally worked out for us to go down for a visit.

ITM's primary focus is church planting and discipleship, and they have various ministries (including aviation and broadcasting) to support their core ministry. They work closely with the Bolivian church, and many of their staff are Bolivian nationals. We find it very appealing to work with an organization that is laboring alongside, and raising up, national brothers and sisters.

We are praying that through this trip the Lord will show us whether ITM is the right place for our family to serve. This will be the first international trip we've all taken together, and the first time that the kids have traveled out of the country. We are praying that Ian and Ella will be deeply impacted, and that we will all gain a renewed vision of how God might use each member of our family to further His kingdom and make disciples of Jesus in whatever place He calls us.

I'm a commercial pilot! Now what?

On August 10, I took the final check ride of my apprenticeship and earned my commercial pilot certificate! As a commercial pilot I have been trained to fly the airplane to higher standards than a private pilot, and have some additional flying privileges.

Immediately after earning my commercial pilot certificate, I began learning to fly the Cessna 206, a slightly larger and heavier airplane that is used in many missionary aviation programs. In August, I flew the 206 to Pennsylvania to take part in a missionary aviation fair, where we displayed the airplane that God has blessed us with, and shared with many people about the ministry of MAG.

Training in the 206 also includes specialized areas of operation that will be encountered on the mission field. These include terrain flying and high-performance takeoffs and landings at short, unimproved airstrips. For perspective, the paved runway at our home airport in Burlington is about 6400 feet long, and the main runway in Greensboro is 10,000 feet in length. As part of my training I have flown the Cessna 206 into grass airstrips as short as 1400 feet.

The last phase of my training will take place in mid-October through early November when I travel to Mexico to spend three weeks with UIM Aviation. In Mexico I will receive training in a turbocharged Cessna 206, and will gain some operational experience in an active missionary aviation program. At the completion of the three weeks in Mexico, my apprenticeship will be essentially complete and I will be ready to move into a role as a missionary pilot-mechanic!



I'm going to be a world traveler! I've got my own passport!



Aaron flew Missionary Air Group's Cessna 206 to Pennsylvania with our chief pilot (Steve Straw, in the center photo) and his wife Alace. We traveled to airports in three different towns to share about MAG's ministry.

Prayer Points

We give thanks for...

- ... Aliza's continued health and development.
- ... the successful completion of Aaron's commercial pilot check ride.
- ... the opportunity to visit ITM in Bolivia this December, and for Aaron to travel to Mexico in October.

Please join us in praying for...

- ... wisdom and discernment regarding our long-term plans.
- ... wise, godly parenting, and for our family to grow closer to one another and to Jesus.
- ... safe travel to Mexico and Bolivia.

Living by Faith

Earlier this month Aaron and Ian attended a weekend retreat with a number of other men from Antioch Community Church. We spent three days at a retreat center operated by Meridzo Ministries in Lynch, Kentucky.

At one time Lynch was a vibrant company town with 10,000 residents and a thriving coal industry. Today there are about 600 people in Lynch, and many of them live in poverty, their small mountain town having been largely forgotten. Meridzo Ministries exists to serve these people and to proclaim Christ in this region of eastern Kentucky.

At several points during the retreat, we heard testimonies from staff members who left their comfortable homes and careers to minister in and around the town of Lynch. In each testimony, I heard a similar theme: leaving home to move to the mountains of Kentucky with no assurance of a salary, but only faith in God to provide. Each one believed that if God called him or her to that place, then God would provide for their needs.

I was impacted in a number of ways during the retreat, but I couldn't stop asking myself, "Am I truly living by faith?" We are told in Scripture that the righteous will live by faith, and that without faith it is impossible to please God. We

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P.O. Box 1118
Coshocton, OH 43812
(740) 622-6848

www.mmsaviation.org

Kids' Corner

Ian and Ella went back to Ohio and visited some places they used to play. They've grown a lot, and it seems like just yesterday we were taking these two little kids to the park!



Aaron's grandma recently met Aliza for the first time.



It's hard to believe Aliza is starting to eat solid food already! Before we know it she'll be on the playground with her brother and sister!

Ian and Ella are enjoying tennis again this season.



often think of faith as it relates to salvation and growth in our relationship with Jesus. But how does the life of faith play out in our everyday affairs: those areas of life that we don't always think of as "spiritual"?

The reality is that many people in this world, including Christians, accomplish seemingly-great things without faith. A lot can be done through human methods, hard work, and willpower. Even as "faith-supported" missionaries, it can be very easy to focus on fundraising methods and programs, and to put our trust in financial pledges rather than in our true Provider. Thankfully, when we have been tempted to fall back on programs and methods He has often reminded us to look to Him to meet our needs. He has shown us time and again that while plans and programs can fail, He is always faithful.

But now that our family is on the verge of another major life decision, I've been thinking again about what it means to walk by faith. I am an analytical person, and it's natural for me to think about each future ministry opportunity in terms of the advantages and disadvantages of each one. It's not necessarily a bad thing to use the mind that God has given me, but if I make this decision by my reasoning alone then I have to question whether I am truly living by faith. If I move forward according to what looks like the best option on paper, apart from the wisdom of God, then I take on the responsibility for my success or failure. But if I move ahead in faith, then I have confidence in God to accomplish His will in us.

Please pray for us as we discern the Lord's direction for our family. We are praying that over the next few months he will make it clear to us what our next step should be. It's our desire to act not out of human wisdom alone, but by faith in the one who has called us into His family, and called us to participate in His redeeming work among the nations. We don't know exactly what that will look like yet, but we're trusting Him to direct our steps!

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www.planeswithpurpose.com

www.facebook.com/PlanesWithPurpose

mail@planeswithpurpose.com

