

PLANES WITH PURPOSE

News from the Hammitt Family

January 2023

BOLIVIAN PILOT CERTIFICATE ✓

You may remember that Aaron had been able to fly in Bolivia for a limited time with his FAA certificate from the United States. However, we always knew that was only a temporary solution, and that he'd eventually need to obtain a permanent Bolivian license.

When he started the process to earn his Bolivian pilot certificate last May, we thought it would be quick and easy. The flight school assured us that since he was already a pilot with experience, it would be a fast process. But as the months passed by, we realized that our estimate of 10-12 weeks was way too optimistic. Aaron completed the 40 hours of required flight time in early December, but due to several problems and delays, he missed the 30-day window to get his check ride done.

We were starting to think he would never finish! But finally, after nine months (which is three months longer than it took to get his private pilot certificate in the USA—while working full-time as an engineer), he successfully passed his Bolivian check ride on January 25, 2023. It's a big relief to finally have a permanent Bolivian pilot certificate!

WHAT'S NEXT?

We wish we could say that with his pilot certificate in hand, Aaron was ready to start flying right away. Well, actually he *is* ready to fly, but there is still no airplane available for him in Bolivia. Our single-engine Cessna 206 is still grounded for repair, and to fly ITM's twin-engine Piper Navajo, he would need a Bolivian multi-engine rating. This is one reason that **we have recently decided to take an extended home assignment earlier than we had originally planned.**

The other important reason for moving up our home assignment is that Ian is a senior and Ella is a junior in high school. As their graduation dates approach, we have decided that the best place to help them in their transition from high school and into young adulthood is in the United States. We originally planned for them to be here in Bolivia through the end of 2023 or longer, but a lot has changed in the last few years—more than we can fully explain in a two-page newsletter.

Our plan is to return to the United States in March 2023, and to be there until late 2024. That is a long time, but with Ian and Ella graduating back-to-back, it makes the most sense. In addition to seven months of home assignment, God has opened a door for us to serve temporarily with another ministry for the remainder of our time in the USA. Our plan is to remain with International Tribal Ministries, but to go "on loan" to another mission until Aaron, Tara, and Aliza return to Bolivia in 2024.

We would have preferred not to move to *another* new place, but we believe that the Lord is providing this opportunity for us to stay involved



In January, Aaron successfully completed his Bolivian check ride!



We continue to make progress on repairing our Cessna 206.



Tara with some of the girls from Ushve. She and Dr. Jaky helped wash, comb, and braid the girls' hair.



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in aviation ministry while we help Ian and Ella transition back to the United States. The organization we'll be working with is going to help us with housing and transportation—a huge need met! Aaron will continue to gain flight and maintenance experience, and to earn some additional ratings while we are in the USA. There are still details to be worked out, but he should be able to get some time doing flight and ground instruction as well.

While this certainly was not our original plan, we are optimistic about this opportunity. We are also praying that some changes will take place in Bolivia (specifically with regard to licensing), so that when we return to Bolivia in 2024 Aaron will be able to have his FAA pilot certificates recognized in Bolivia.

Thank you for praying with us during this time of transition. If you have questions or would like more information, feel free to reach out to us personally!



Even though we plan to return, it's going to be hard to leave relationships that we have developed in Bolivia.



Yes, there is a waterfall there! Soon after this, Aliza was soaked from head to toe.



Aaron's parents came to visit at the end of 2022. We enjoyed their visit, and they enjoyed seeing their grandkids (and Aaron and Tara too)! Before they left, we made sure to squeeze in a hike to a waterfall at 9,500 feet above sea level.

We are thankful. . .

- ▶ that Aaron finally has his Bolivian pilot certificate.
- ▶ for the Lord's continued provision for us through our ministry partners (that's you)!
- ▶ that Aaron and Tara were able to obtain permanent residency in Bolivia.

Please pray with us. . .

- ▶ for Aliza's permanent residency paperwork to move quickly.
- ▶ for our upcoming extended home assignment.
- ▶ for wisdom as we clarify our next steps.
- ▶ for Ian and Ella as they make important life decisions.

FIRST TRIP TO USHVE

BY TARA

In November, I was given the opportunity to go with a medical team to Ushve, a remote location in Bolivia where ITM is hoping to send a team of laborers to help build and grow the church. Now that Aliza is 4.5 years old, she was ready for her special time with Daddy. Meanwhile, I joined the medical team.

It was such a blessing to see first-hand the community I have only heard about. It was my first tribal experience. It was my first tribal church experience, and my first time hearing the word of God read in a tribal language! It was encouraging and humbling all at the same time.

On the trip, I wasn't sure what to expect. I wanted to serve and be a help to the doctors. I sorted medicine. I registered patients. I learned a little about ultrasounds and helped the doctor with the pregnant patients. The doctors said they finished a few hours earlier than usual with the extra hands on the team. This allowed for more time to spend with the community, which included washing and braiding of the young girls' hair.

We were there to serve and build a foundation, but it is our desire to send a team of missionaries to live and serve the community. We have a couple from Ushve in our Bible Institute. Lord willing, in one year, they will complete their course and be sent home as missionaries to their own community.

Thanks for reading. Thanks for praying. Thanks for supporting our family as we serve communities like these! We love you and appreciate your faithfulness to the Lord and building His kingdom. It is a privilege to be your missionaries!

