

# PLANES WITH PURPOSE

News from the Hammitt Family

July 2023

## A WHIRLWIND OF CHANGE

Since arriving in the United States, it's been a whirlwind of activity and change! We spent a few weeks getting adjusted and settling in during the month of March, but since then, we have been quite busy adjusting to a new home and new roles, and preparing for all of the changes coming to our family for the upcoming school year.

When we left Bolivia for our extended home assignment, Ian was still undecided about his exact plans. But after receiving some scholarship offers, he decided to attend the University of Toledo this fall. As we write this letter, we are in Ohio helping him get established and ready to start classes next month.

We are still in the process of determining which schools Ella and Aliza will attend in the fall. This has been more complicated than we had anticipated, and regardless of what decision is made, it will be a big adjustment—especially for Ella as she is beginning her senior year of high school. Please pray for her, and for us, as we make a decision in the upcoming weeks.

Aaron has jumped into his role at Wings of Grace with both feet, helping to maintain a fleet of several airplanes, as well as doing some flying and a little bit of teaching. In June, Aaron earned his FAA inspection authorization, which gives him the authority to sign off annual inspections and approve major alterations and repairs to aircraft. This will be a great benefit to the ministry, as we will not have to rely on the availability of outside inspectors to complete the inspections on our airplanes.

He has also begun working on his CFI (certified flight instructor) certificate, and will shift more time and attention to that in the month of August. This fall he will be taking on more of a mentorship and teaching role in the Wings of Grace chapter in Melbourne, Florida, and having his CFI certificate will allow him to conduct ground and flight training.

Tara has the least-defined role outside of the family, but caring for our family as we navigate this season is a full-time job! It has been a blessing for her to be closer to her family in Florida, but we are still not really connected into a community where we live in Melbourne. Please pray for those relationships to be developed. We have begun getting to know some of our neighbors and are starting to feel a little more connected in our community, but we are still looking for a church family to be a part of while we are in Florida.

Thank you so much for continuing to partner with us in this season that was definitely not part of our *Plan A*. Your support allows us to continue to use and develop the gifts and skills that we have invested in over the last ten years, and to use those gifts to be a blessing to those we are serving during our time in Florida.



*Ian will be starting classes at the University of Toledo this August.*



*I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to gain aviation experience while we serve stateside. It is a blessing to be able to be involved in ministry doing something that I also enjoy!*



*These are some of the planes Aaron is maintaining and flying during our time of service in Florida.*



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*We are thankful. . .*

- ▶ that Ian was able to get scholarships to attend college in the fall.
- ▶ that Aaron obtained his FAA inspection authorization.

*Please pray with us. . .*

- ▶ as we make schooling decisions for Ella and Aliza.
- ▶ for Aaron and Tara as we help to guide our children through this time of transition.
- ▶ for a church to call home in Florida, and for relationships and community.
- ▶ for lives to be impacted through our ministry.



*It was great for Aaron to spend some time with his brother while he was in Tennessee for the IA course.*



*While in Ohio, we've been taking the kids to some of our favorite places, like Wildwood Metropark.*



*You've got to soak up these moments. Before we know it, she will also be going off to college!*



*Grandpa is always good for a Detroit Tigers game when we are visiting during baseball season.*

## A TEACHABLE MOMENT

As parents, we often find ourselves in a moment that affords us the chance to teach our children an important life lesson, or to illustrate a Biblical principle as it applies to everyday living. But every now and then, our children teach *us* a lesson. I experienced one such moment on July 3 while we were watching the fireworks with our family.

Aliza, as she often does, struck up a conversation with a young couple that was sitting near us. She mentioned her "Baby Yoda" blanket, which led to a short discussion of television shows and movies. When it came around to a character in a movie who appeared to die and later come back to life, Aliza remarked that it wasn't real, because Jesus didn't bring him back to life—but that someday Jesus would return and bring back to life the people who believed in Him. In the course of that short conversation with her new friend, Aliza talked not only about the resurrection, but also about how Jesus forgives our sins and the rainbow as a symbol of God's promise.

As adults, we often hesitate to share our faith out of fear of rejection, ridicule, or offending someone. But my 5-year-old didn't know to worry about those things; she was just speaking freely about truth that she believes in, and to her it was perfectly normal. Although it is healthy and good to leave behind *childish* behavior as we become mature adults, maybe there are some ways in which we need to be a bit more *childlike*!

## WINGS OF GRACE

In our last newsletter, we shared briefly that we are currently on loan to a ministry called Wings of Grace in Melbourne, Florida, and that our plan is to return to Bolivia after Ella has graduated from high school and started college. We are thankful for those of you who are continuing to support us through these couple years that we are serving with Wings of Grace.

Our primary area of ministry is the teen aviation program, which involves mentorship, instructing, and aircraft maintenance, as well as doing some flights in support of the other ministry areas. Once Aaron earns his CFI, he will also be helping to instruct a young man (John) who is already serving as a teen mentor and aviation mechanic, but desires to serve overseas as a missionary pilot. That's an exciting opportunity!

As far as the teen aviation program, each Tuesday evening the students involved in the Melbourne Wings of Grace chapter gather for fellowship, learning, and a devotional from the Bible. One of our initial concerns was that the program would be heavy on aviation and light on spiritual formation. So we were happy to hear that—for this upcoming year—the plan is to put more emphasis on the devotional, small group discussion, and relationship building, while still maintaining a high standard of aviation instruction. Please pray that we can have a lasting impact in the lives of these students.

