

# PLANES WITH PURPOSE

News from the Hammitt Family

October 2020

## A slow return to normal

Greetings once again from Cochabamba, Bolivia! This has been a strange year, and it feels like we have been sharing the same information for several months. Being quarantined from March through September, it often felt like life was on repeat! Now, in October, the country seems to be opening up and life is starting to feel more normal except for the masks, distancing, and a few other measures that are still in place.

After taking a break from flying due to COVID-related precautions, Aaron has been back in the airplane more frequently and is about to submit the paperwork for his Bolivian pilot certificate. We are not sure how the process will go and appreciate your prayers that it will move along smoothly, including the written and practical tests.

As the focus of the country is moving away from the COVID crisis, we are now approaching the presidential election in Bolivia. You may remember that we returned to the United States for two months after last year's elections due to civil unrest in Bolivia. New elections were supposed to take place in the spring, but were postponed due to the pandemic. The elections take place this month with a possible second round in November, and there is a possibility of more demonstrations and protests. We don't plan to leave the country again, but we appreciate your prayers for wisdom and for peace in Bolivia.

## A second airplane for ITM

If you are on our electronic mailing list, you received an email recently about the possible purchase of a second airplane for ITM. At that time, we were praying for wisdom regarding the purchase of another aircraft, as well as the funds we would need to buy it. Praise the Lord, He provided the finances we need for the initial purchase of another Cessna 206! It is a well-loved airplane from another mission organization, and is now in Georgia where the process of cleaning, stripping, and inspecting the airframe has begun.

As the ministry of ITM grows, the second aircraft will allow us to expand our reach and opens up the possibility of another base of operation. Having two airplanes will also allow us to continue responding to needs even when one of our airplanes is down for maintenance. We continue to trust God for the additional funds and all the details involved in refurbishing it and importing it to Bolivia! You can read more at [goitm.org/en/airplane-project](http://goitm.org/en/airplane-project).



*Unloading in the town of San Pablo after flying a pastor/missionary back home.*



*Aaron has ridden along in the Cessna Caravan on some humanitarian flights to practice working the radio in Spanish, and to get more exposure to the places we fly in Bolivia.*



*Aaron flew several of our team members into Oromomo, where they will offer classes to students who have been affected by the cancellation of the school year.*



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## Kids' Corner

### We are thankful:

- ✧ that we finally have all of our visas!
- ✧ that our family has been able to get out of the house more frequently as the quarantine eases up.

### Please pray with us for:

- ✧ peace surrounding the upcoming Bolivian elections.
- ✧ perseverance, peace, and contentment for our family as we continue to struggle with the lack of fellowship and social interaction due to the restrictions in Bolivia.
- ✧ the process of obtaining Aaron's Bolivian pilot certificate.



*Hanging out at one of the many small parks in Cochabamba.*



*This girl loves life—especially when she gets to go out to play!*



*Thanks to the quarantine easing up, we are able to get out of the house a few times per week.*



*Don't let them fool you; the big kids can have fun at the park too!*

## The harvest is plentiful

As I have spent time talking and flying with Tony (ITM's director), one thing has become clear: there is no shortage of work to be done in Bolivia. As we fly over the dense jungle and river systems that run through the northern region of the country, he has pointed out several areas where there are no known believers or Christian churches. Unless someone intentionally reaches out to these communities, they will have little opportunity to hear the gospel due to the fact that they are so isolated.

God has raised up faithful disciples in places where ITM currently has a presence, and their desire is to reach more communities in the region. As a ministry, we are praying about where we will go next, and trusting the Lord for more laborers with a heart to carry the message of Jesus to the unreached. We have already been surveying new areas, and one of our ITM missionaries will soon begin dedicating more of her time to understanding the needs in the remote communities across the northern region of Bolivia.

In fact, the Lord is already opening up new doors of opportunity. Just a few days ago, Tony visited a village called Totora for the first time. The community has been hard at work constructing a new airstrip, which will allow us to fly in to serve and minister in that village. We are praying for a missionary family with a heart to live and serve among these people.

A few days earlier Aaron and Tony took a team of ITM missionaries to another village that has been hostile toward the gospel in the past. From this community they embarked on a teaching trip along the lower Secure River. Several people came to faith in Jesus, and we are praying that we will see them and others grow to become mature disciples.

It's exciting to see how the Lord is opening up new opportunities for ministry, including physical help (such as medical assistance and emergency transport), and more importantly the opportunity to share the gospel—that which has the power to truly transform lives and communities through the power of Jesus.

