

Planes with Purpose

An Update from the Hammitt Family

Vol. 4, Issue 2 (April 2016)

Rapid Response: Ahuas, Honduras

On March 1, 2016 Mike Dunkley and I (Aaron) arrived in the small village of Ahuas, Honduras to repair two airplanes operated by Alas de Socorro. The airplanes support the work of the Ahuas Clinic, which provides medical services to the Miskito people—native Central Americans who live in parts of Honduras and Nicaragua. One of the airplanes recently struck a buzzard in flight while carrying several patients back to the hospital. No one was injured in the bird strike, but the airplane suffered significant damage. The second airplane was in the middle of an inspection that was never completed.

Our goal was to complete the repairs on the airplane that struck the bird (registration HR-AJW), and then do as much as possible on the other airplane (HR-AUS). As it turned out, our plans were flipped upside down! A week after Mike and I began disassembly of HR-AJW, Jason Maust arrived with parts to begin working on HR-AUS while we waited for the windshield and other parts to be released from customs.

To make a long story short, the parts for HR-AJW were not released until our last day in Ahuas. By that time, it was too late to install them. However, we believe that God's hand was in this. We accomplished other valuable work, including repair of the hospital's generator—one of their most necessary pieces of equipment.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to go online and learn more about my time in Honduras. I shared about the trip in more detail on our blog at www.planeswithpurpose.com, and I posted a highlight video at www.vimeo.com/aaronhammitt.

MAG's C172 is Complete!

You may recall that I spent several months working with a team of MMS mechanics that has been preparing a Cessna 172 for service with Missionary Air Group in Burlington, North Carolina. I'm happy to report that the airplane is finished! At the beginning of April, Scott Grote (MAG's director of maintenance) made a successful return-to-service flight (see the photo on the right).



I'm especially excited about this airplane, because it will be my primary training aircraft when I begin my flight training with Missionary Air Group early next year. I currently have my private pilot certificate, but at MAG I will build additional experience and earn the ratings and certificates required for me to serve as a missionary pilot/mechanic on the field.



Aaron, Mike and Jason from MMS Aviation, along with Wayli and Wayne from Alas de Socorro, at the hangar in Ahuas.



Jason and I removed the tail of HR-AUS to replace a cracked stabilizer bracket. In this photo we are riveting the bracket in place.



In this photo, Scott Grote is bringing MAG's Cessna 172 back from a successful flight.



Prayer Points

We give thanks for...

- ... a great trip, and a safe return from Honduras.
- ... the opportunity for Tara and the kids to visit family and have some vacation time in Florida.

Please join us in praying for...

- ... a vehicle that will be a better fit (literally) for our family as we plan to travel and raise support this summer and fall.
- ... Aaron's preparation for his FAA Airframe and Powerplant examinations, which will hopefully take place this August.
- ... the spiritual health of our family; that we would continue to grow in Christ-likeness.

Kids' Corner

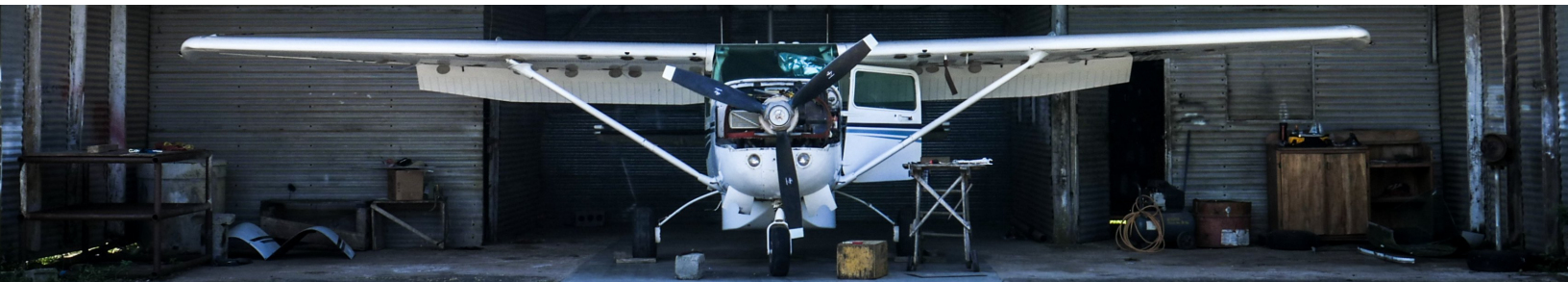
While Aaron was in Honduras, Tara took the kids to Florida to see her side of the family. They even got to visit Disney World! Sadly, I don't have photos to prove it, so here are a couple pictures of life in Coshocton, Ohio!



It's beautiful day to take photos with the family!



Ian enjoyed real life "Fruit Ninja" with his new machete from Honduras.



HR-AUS undergoing repair and inspection in Alas de Socorro's hangar.

Ahuas, Honduras in Photos

We normally use this space for additional written content, but this month we decided to share some photos from Honduras instead. We hope you'll enjoy them! We've posted additional photos online at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aaronhammitt>.



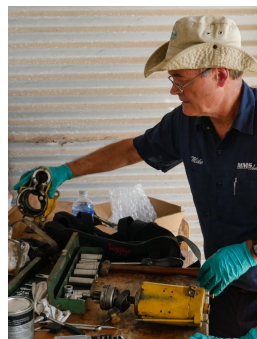
The only access to the village of Ahuas is by boat or plane.



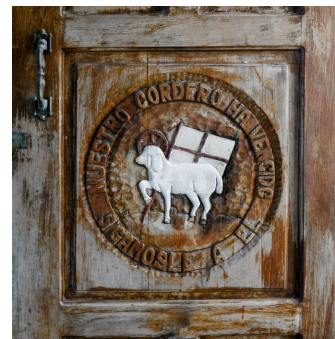
Aaron with two local children at the clinic.



A local guy preparing fresh coconut for us.



Mike repairs the starter from the hospital's generator.



The front door of the Moravian church: "Our Lamb has conquered. Let us follow Him."



Looking down the main runway in Ahuas.

We serve with

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