

Planes with Purpose

An Update from the Hammitt Family

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Repairs Underway on MAG's Cessna 172

If you read our newsletter last quarter, you remember that an incident took place in February, which resulted in damage to MAG's training aircraft. While Aaron would rather have been flying that airplane the past few months, he instead practiced his maintenance skills by disassembling it and preparing components for shipment to various facilities for inspection and repair. MAG does have several skilled mechanics on staff, but the organization is small and our Burlington hangar is not fully-equipped to make the repairs. The engine has been sent to a shop across the runway from our hangar, and wings and control surfaces are being repaired by a shop in Indiana.

We are grateful for the progress that has been made so far, but there is still some uncertainty about how the final repairs and reassembly will be done. Aaron does have another airplane to fly temporarily, but it is more expensive and is equipped with outdated avionics that will make it difficult for him to complete his instrument training in that aircraft. We appreciate your prayers and are trusting God for His provision!

Another School Year in the Books!

At the end of May, Ian and Ella completed their first year at Burlington Christian Academy. The school year ended with an awards ceremony where they were recognized for their academic achievements. Ella also received a superior rating for a short story that was chosen for submission to the ACSI regional creative writing festival. We're very proud of both of them!

Though the school year ended in May, we stayed busy through most of June as Ian played baseball and Ella played softball in Burlington's city recreational league. We are not super-competitive, yet we were initially a bit disappointed when they were both placed on young, inexperienced teams. But as the season progressed we could see how this turned out for their good. Being more experienced players boosted their confidence and allowed them opportunities that they may not have otherwise had. They also learned the value of pitching in to help the team wherever the coach asked them to play, even when it meant setting aside personal preferences. In Ella's case, this literally meant pitching, even though it wasn't her preference or her best position.

Youth sports can be a controversial topic in the church, especially in a day and age when some families are increasingly consumed by sports. However, we are thankful for the character development that takes place through sports, as well as the opportunities to interact with folks in our community that we would otherwise never meet.

Now that team sports are over, we have a few weeks to relax before we head to New York, Boston and Maine for vacation, as well as visiting friends and ministry partners. We come back in the middle of August: just in time for the kids to start another year at BCA!



We've made significant progress on getting MAG's Cessna 172 disassembled, with parts sent out to various shops for repair. Here, Scott Grote (MAG's director of maintenance) is loading a trailer with wings and control surfaces to be taken to a shop in Indiana.

The engine inspection and repair is nearly complete, but we are still finalizing plans for the fuselage repairs. We appreciate your prayers as all of the details are worked out.



The week after Father's Day, Aaron's parents came for a visit to Burlington. It's been a while since Aaron and his dad have gone flying together, so it was fun to head out for a post-Father's-Day flight.

Prayer Points

We give thanks...

- ... for progress being made on the repairs of the Cessna 172, MAG's primary training aircraft.
- ... for time spent with Tara's family in Florida, and Aaron's family in Tennessee.

Please join us in praying for...

- ... timely and cost-effective repair of MAG's Cessna 172.
- ... our upcoming trip to the Northeast, where we will have time to unplug and connect as a family, and visit friends and ministry partners.
- ... language study. We would like to improve on our very basic Spanish skills, and are still working out the best way to do that.

Aaron Begins Instrument Flight Training

For several months Aaron has been studying for his instrument rating, reading about the physiology of flight, FAA regulations, instrument procedures, weather, and much more. The instrument rating, and the experience that comes with it, equip a pilot to fly solely by reference to the flight instruments when outside visual references are not available; in other words, when visibility is limited by clouds or other weather.

Now that most of his book work is complete, Aaron has begun the flight portion of his instrument training. Much of this training involves flying while wearing a visor or glasses that block the pilot's view of the outside world. In this way, the pilot learns to trust and interpret the flight instruments, and to ignore physical sensations experienced in flight that can be misleading. There are also a number of procedures that must be learned, such as flying approaches to airports using navigational instruments in lieu of outside visual cues.

We appreciate your prayers for Aaron and his instructor, Sean Garrigan, as Aaron continues to move toward becoming a fully qualified missionary pilot!

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Kids' Corner



Ian had two baseball seasons this year: first playing for the BCA Royals, and then for the Phillies in the Burlington recreation league. Ella played softball for the St. Mark's Angels.

After the baseball/softball season ended, the kids learned to play tennis through a program offered by Burlington Parks and Recreation. Burlington has a very nice tennis facility, and we decided that this could be an inexpensive way for us to get out and enjoy some recreational time as a family, since the house we are renting does not have much of a yard.

Ella and Aaron have enjoyed some father/daughter time kayaking on the Haw River.

In June, Aaron's parents rented a cabin in Gatlinburg, where we met them and Aaron's brother's family. The kids had a great time with their grandparents and cousins. We were also blessed with some tickets to Dollywood, which was a lot of fun for the cousins.

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