

# PLANES WITH PURPOSE

News from the Hammitt Family

October 2019

## We made it to Bolivia!

As we shared in our last newsletter, we moved out of our home in North Carolina at the end of June. After that we traveled to northwest Ohio to be with friends and family, meet with ministry partners, and make final preparations for our move to Bolivia. We were blessed with a great place to stay during that time, and were encouraged by the time spent with the people we love. We visited many of the places that we enjoy the most, and were able to connect with many (unfortunately not all) of the people that we love dearly in that part of the country.

After eight busy but blessed weeks, we bid farewell to our friends and family in the United States. On August 29 we set foot in Bolivia, the country that we would soon call home. We received a warm welcome in Cochabamba from friends and co-workers with ITM. Although we don't yet know most of them very well—and we face cultural and linguistic barriers—we felt an immediate connection as brothers and sisters in the Lord. We look forward to the growth of these relationships as we spend more time together.

## So what are we doing now?

Our first few weeks in Bolivia were focused on settling in to our house and learning our way around the city. It's been twenty years since we had to set up a house from scratch, and it was quite a process to do that again in an unfamiliar country. We can get everything we need (and most of the things we want) in Cochabamba; everything just takes more time and effort than in the States!

Now that we are mostly settled, our focus is learning Spanish and obtaining our long-term visas. Ian and Ella can't start school in Bolivia until February (their school year is based on the South American calendar), so they are taking online classes and working with a Spanish tutor for the next few months. Please pray for our language acquisition, which will enable us to be more engaged in the community and more effective in ministry!

I'm waiting for my toolbox to arrive in a container from the States, and will need to get my pilot certificate validated before I can begin flying in Bolivia. Hopefully we will be able to do that early next year, but I will need to attain an adequate level of Spanish first. Again, please pray for effective language learning for our family!



*Here we are, ready to drive to the Detroit airport for our flight to Miami, then Bolivia.*



*We recently attended a wedding at a venue overlooking the city of Cochabamba.*



*Our main focus for the next few months is learning Spanish.*



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## Family Corner

### We are thankful for:

- ✧ God's provision for all of our needs.
- ✧ a good Spanish tutor that we really like.
- ✧ use of the mission truck while we look for a car.

### Please pray with us for:

- ✧ continued progress toward obtaining our long-term visas.
- ✧ a reliable vehicle for our family at an affordable price.
- ✧ more opportunities to develop relationships and get connected in our community.
- ✧ language acquisition, and our transition to living in a new and unfamiliar culture.



*We enjoyed taking Aliza to the Toledo Zoo while in Ohio.*



*Ian was happy to celebrate his 15th birthday with his cousins.*



*Prior to leaving for Bolivia, we visited Coshocton (home of MMS Aviation) one more time.*



*We were only able to bring a few toys for Aliza, but she has no problem finding things to play with!*

## Sometimes I Just Want Cookies

One of the exciting things about moving—especially to a place as different as Bolivia—is experiencing new places, a new culture, new people, and new foods. There is one food that Aliza loves more than any other. But it's not a local food like pique macho or silpancho or empanadas. Her favorite food is a chocolate-flavored, cream-filled delight: the Cremosita! Yes, it's a South American version of the Oreo cookie. Not only does she love to eat them, but "cookie" is also one of her favorite words. There's no doubt what she wants when she says, "Cookie!"

The other day we were trying to feed her dinner as usual. But she wanted nothing to do with the food on her tray. Vegetables, fruit, meat, and potatoes were all flung to the floor. She wanted one thing, and one thing only: cookies! Despite our best efforts to look out for her nutritional needs, she was set on stuffing her face with as much sugary goodness as possible.

My frustration with Aliza soon turned to introspection. Am I really so different from her? Don't I tend to be shortsighted, desiring things that taste good and satisfy my immediate cravings? Do I always trust my heavenly Father, or am I tempted to question His goodness when times get hard? If I'm honest, sometimes I just

want cookies—figuratively speaking—and don't want to eat the veggies that the Father puts on my plate!

We've been in Bolivia for several weeks now. The busyness of moving in has died down, and we are settling in to a routine. But my schedule is not necessarily filled with the things I long to be doing. After training for several years to be a missionary pilot-mechanic, I am anxious to be back in an airplane and on the "front lines" of ministry with ITM. By comparison, the daily routine of language study—peppered with grocery shopping and traveling around the city to do paperwork—can seem mundane.

We are excited that God has brought us here to Bolivia and look forward to participating more fully in ministry with ITM. But we also know that life is not all about the cookies! The difficulty of leaving home, friends, and family, and learning a new language and culture, is all part of the process that God is using to refine us and conform us into the image of His Son Jesus. The goal is not to maximize fun and pleasure; the Lord is molding and changing us, equipping us for the good works that He's prepared for us here in Bolivia. In the meantime, we are trusting Him to work in and through our everyday relationships—at the market, in the classroom, and wherever else we go!

