

# Planes with Purpose

## An Update from the Hammitt Family

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### Welcome to Our Family, Aliza!

On April 23, we welcomed Aliza Lynn Hammitt into our family! Her name means Joyful, and she has certainly brought joy to our family. Before she was born, it was hard to imagine what life would be like with a newborn, but now that she's here we can't imagine *not* having her as a part of our family.

As Aliza's due date approached, we wondered how Ian and Ella would adapt to having a newborn in the house. As the saying goes, "a baby changes everything." She certainly has! But from the moment they set eyes on her in the hospital, it was obvious how much Aliza's brother and sister love her. They have stepped up to help us care for her, and it's been fun to watch them fall in love with their baby sister. We trust that this unexpected little blessing will be one of the best things that has happened to our family!

You may wonder how Aliza's birth affects our plans to join a field program abroad. The truth is, we don't really know yet. Missionaries take babies overseas all the time, and babies are born every day in whatever country we'll be serving. So we are not worried about taking her, but we will also be sensitive to her needs and her safety as we consider options for future service. There may be a possibility of continuing to live stateside for a couple years, taking short term trips and supporting international field programs from the United States, so we are also considering that as an option.

There is no shortage of needs for missionary pilots and mechanics, and we have taken several steps toward discerning which organization and field program we should serve with. We appreciate your prayers for that process, and for our family as we care for our new bundle of joy!

### N381MG 100-hour Inspection

During my time in North Carolina, I'm not only learning to be a proficient and professional pilot; I'm also learning how to safely and legally maintain the aircraft that I fly. One important aspect of aircraft maintenance is a good inspection program. The FAA mandates certain inspections, and we have a program that meets or exceeds those requirements.

I recently had the opportunity to lead a team of three aircraft mechanics as we conducted a 100-hour inspection on our primary training aircraft, N381MG. During the inspection, we discovered several small cracks in the exhaust, which could have eventually grown larger and allowed carbon monoxide to enter the cabin. Needless to say, that would be a very dangerous situation. It's because of such safety issues that regular inspections are so important.

Leading the 100-hour inspection was a valuable learning experience for me, and is just one more way that my service with MAG is helping to prepare me for future service on an overseas mission field.



*On April 23, we welcomed our daughter Aliza into the family. She is about one month old in this photo.*



*This photo of Aliza was taken in the hospital. She is now about three months old and is doing well!*



*We recently conducted the 100-hour inspection on N381MG. There are at least two important aspects to the inspection: first, there is the actual physical inspection and repair of the airplane; secondly, the mechanic must know how to perform and document the maintenance in accordance with FAA regulations.*



*Clockwise, from top left:*

- *What would our July newsletter be without baseball photos? Like last year, Ian played for the BCA Royals (his middle school team), and then in the Burlington city league.*
- *We've enjoyed taking kayaks out on the Haw River this summer.*
- *Ella is seriously in love with her baby sister!*
- *For the second year in a row, Ella played softball for the St. Mark's Angels.*
- *In early July, we spent a week with Aaron's family in Tennessee. It was good to be in the mountains and to spend time with family we haven't seen in a while.*
- *Ian is holding Aliza for the first time.*

## Do Not Be Anxious

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

It wasn't too many years ago that we corresponded with distant friends and family through letters, waited weeks to receive items ordered from paper catalogs, and got our news from magazines and newspapers. These days, we get impatient if our text messages aren't answered within minutes, or if our Amazon Prime shipment takes four days instead of two. And with the advent of social media, it seems that last week's events are old news; we've forgotten them and moved on to today's hot topic. As a result, many of us (myself included), have come to struggle with waiting patiently, and with staying focused on something for a long period of time.

When I began the transition from an engineering career to the field of missionary aviation more than six years ago, I knew it would be a long process. But it seems that in missions, and especially in missionary aviation, things often take longer than expected. Over the past few months we've experienced several setbacks due to weather, maintenance issues, and aircraft availability. When facing such delays, it is easy to become anxious. My response can tend toward two extremes. Sometimes I want to take aggressive action to force my way through whatever barrier is standing in my way. More often I am tempted give in to resignation, believing that there's nothing I can do to change the situation, so why bother trying?

Neither of these is the response that Philippians 4 directs us toward. Rather, Paul reminds us to entrust our concerns to the One who is sovereign over every circumstance. When we do that, we give up our anxiety for "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding." Of course we continue to walk by faith, taking whatever steps He has placed before us, but we can do so without anxiety, knowing that we can trust Him every step of the way—even when we wish things would move faster!

We appreciate your continued prayers as we entrust our future to the Lord, while taking steps of faith to discern what our next steps will be. We've continued talking with a few aviation organizations about mission service, trusting the Lord to direct us. Thanks for supporting, encouraging, and praying for our family through this process!

## Prayer Points

### We give thanks for...

- ... Aliza's arrival, and for a healthy baby and mother.
- ... the provision of a complex airplane, which will allow Aaron to complete his commercial pilot training.
- ... the ministry partners who faithfully support and encourage us.

### Please join us in praying for...

- ... Aaron's commercial pilot check ride, which will take place in early August.
- ... the completion of Aaron's flight training. There are a few details to work out regarding his advanced training.
- ... our family to grow closer to one another and to Jesus.

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