

Mission Aviation Training Academy

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MATA.USA@GMAIL.COM

SEPTEMBER 2011

Advanced Training/Alaska Ministry

GREAT IS
THE LORD
AND HIGHLY
TO BE
PRAISED

PSALMS
145:3

SPECIAL
EVENTS:

SATURDAY
MATA
BIBLE
STUDY 7P.M.

SEPT 17

MISSION
FEST
SEATTLE

OCT 7-8

MATA NEEDS
YOU!

BE A
MONTHLY
MATA
SUPPORTER

The summer has been quite challenging and yet extremely rewarding for us here at MATA. Our planes, students, and staff have been working overtime trying to keep up with the needs both here in Arlington and in Alaska.

Our student Chad Dimon just returned from seven weeks flying in Alaska, and reports:

I had the privilege of being able to fly Native Americans for Bible camp from May to mid-July. It was my first experience with actual "mission aviation" flying. I say mission aviation because the purpose was to bring people to Kako Retreat Center so they would have the opportunity to hear the Gospel in a safe, fun, and non-threatening environment.

Flying in western Alaska is unique and challenging. The procedures

are not much different than in the "Lower 48," however the landscape is entirely different. Instead of networks of roads and highways, there are only miles upon miles of soggy tundra and lakes. There are absolutely no roads linking villages to villages, much less to Kako Retreat Center! The mission of Kako would cease were it not for the availability of aviation to speed people to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Kako Pilot, Jonathan Penz (L), was joined by MATA pilots Chad Dimon, John Lewis, and Gordon Bakke, this summer.

I accrued nearly 120 hours in MATA's Cessna 182 and Kako's Cessna 206, transporting over 300 passengers plus cargo. For me, this experience confirmed the calling towards mission

Chad and his happy campers



aviation for which I've trained these past 10 years.

What a provision, since Chad needed more time in preparation for his technical evaluation with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) this fall. He now has over 500 hours total time, not to mention the wealth of field experience from Alaska.

Christine McDonald along with her sister Alex, and cousin served as camp counselors for three weeks. It takes a team to reach the village.

John and Margaret Lewis

John Lewis is a retired contractor who earned his pilot license at MATA. He and his wife Margaret are feeling called to serve in remote Alaskan villages after spending time there during the past two summers.

"We were wonderfully blessed this year as the Lord provided for us to spend six weeks at Kako and surrounding villages building relationships and ministering to the people. In Marshall we furnished materials for winterizing two doors in one home, repaired a striker on the door at their church, hauled logs out of the river for firewood, and babysat. Many hours were spent encouraging the new believers and speaking about the Lord.

While visiting a fish camp in Marshall, we made friends and saw their desire to spend time enjoying each other's company, singing hymns, praying, and



John making music with his friends

sharing the experience of how they live. While in Marshall we learned of a family who had lost their fish house when the river swept it away. This

dwelling is essential for them to protect their smoking, drying salmon, needed for the winter months, from the bears. I would like to help meet this need. (\$5,500 for a 12x16 building). We saw other needs and feel the Lord is calling us to serve alongside these people."

John Lewis and Dary Finch flew MATA's Cessna 182 back from Kako through Canada, a flight neither of them had done before. The Lord was good and opened the weather most of the way. Upon return the plane received a lot of maintenance as bush flying is hard on equipment. It is now ready for more flight training and next summer in Alaska.



P.O. Box 3655
17705 49th Dr. NE Hangar A
Arlington, WA 98223

Training Pilots on a Mission

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Students Achieve New Ratings and Licenses

I spent an insane two weeks in June at MATA away from my wife and twin two year-old boys to complete my **Commercial Pilot Certificate**.



Mark Howard

I needed 25 hours of flight and instruction plus the written exam. This required a lot of focus and hours of studying, but it all paid off on June 15th when I passed my checkride.

I've been a youth pastor for the past seven years at Chesapeake Church in Huntington, Maryland, but feel God calling me to Honduras to serve with Mission Aviation Group (MAG) in the near future.

I was a 2009 summer camper and returned to MATA this summer to train for my **Private Pilot Certificate** which I earned on July 23rd.



Joe Noble

I'm thrilled to return home to British Columbia, Canada where I plan to fly for my dad and his ministry with First Nation reservations and "Cowboy church". Currently my dad and I are restoring a Cessna 172 that we will use in this ministry.



Jay Erickson

MATA helped me get my **Certified Flight Instructor (CFI)**, rating, so I can now build needed flight hours teaching others to fly. MATA was very flexible and allowed me to come and go every couple of weeks, as my home and job are in Spokane, 300 miles away. MATA also put me in touch with Amos Collins, a MATA graduate who is flying with Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA) in Micronesia. Because of this my wife and I have decided to apply to PMA as soon as I meet their flight hour requirements.

After attending MATA's Aviation Summer Camp in 2008, I couldn't wait to continue flight training toward my Private Pilot Certificate, so I returned last summer at age 16, and accomplished most of the Private Pilot requirements. I'm now 17, and spent two weeks at MATA this summer and am able to say, I'm a Private Pilot! I'll continue to look to the Lord for direction in my life as I complete high-school, a junior this year, and finish my flight training. Thank you MATA!



Jake Bucc

Director's Corner

Every month we write a new letter to send out with the receipt of donations. This month Dary Finck wrote, "We just finished up Summer Camp with 15 campers. Gary and Stacie put endless hours into the camp, even spending the week up here living, eating, and sleeping in the dorm where the campers stay. Our graduate Josh Harrington, and his wife Amber, also helped out immensely, with Josh flying as one of

the instructors, and Amber helping out wherever she could. They also did a presentation on JAARS for the campers one evening. Jonathan Miller, another MATA student, helped out and also did presentations on Creation and Genesis. The campers really loved listening to him. We also want to thank our ground instructors, Allen Koopman and Steve King, for taking the week to teach the campers every morning and afternoon."

Dary doesn't mention himself in

this letter but he and his wife Anna, have given abundantly to our students and campers. Not only did they help with camp, they housed and fed Joe Noble during his 9 week stay. They always seem to have an open door policy for students in the training. Often you will find students staying the night with them or sharing a meal.

Josh and Amber are serving with JAARS, Wycliffe Bible Translators aviation division in

Papua, Indonesia. They are home for a few months. If you would like them to come and speak to your church or prayer group, please contact us.

Please continue to pray that our students would be encouraged to carry on in their flight training, as some days it is pretty tough. But, as you can see there is a lot of blessing.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Gordon Bakke

Executive Director