

# Mission Aviation Training Academy

425-231-5855

mata.usa@gmail.com

October 2010

Saturday Night  
Bible study  
MATA hangar  
7p.m.

Be careful  
how you  
walk, not as  
unwise men,  
but as wise,  
making the  
most of  
your time,  
because the  
days are  
evil.  
Eph. 5:15-16

Be a MATA  
monthly  
supporter

mata-usa.org

## Students Earn New Ratings

Congratulations to Chad Dimon for earning his Commercial Pilot license on August 28th, April Erhardt for gaining her Flight Instructor rating on September 2nd, and Harlan Lloyd for completing his Commercial Pilot license on September 3rd! These achievements represent lots of time, expense, and hard work, and we want to thank all of you who supported their efforts through your prayers and financial assistance.



A thankful April and Chad

## Gracia Burnham to Visit MATA

Martin and Gracia Burnham were New Tribes Mission co-workers of Gary and Stacie Elliott in the Philippines. Martin was the Chief Pilot and gave Gary his field checkout on the mountain and jungle airstrips. Gracia's New York Times bestseller [In The Presence of My Enemies](#) chronicles their year of captivity among Muslim fanatics, 17 harrowing rescue attempts by the Philippine military, and the ultimate confrontation



Gracia Burnham

## MATA's Summer 2010 Alaska Ministry

MATA pilots April Erhardt, Dary Finck, John Lewis, and Gary Elliott spent over a month in Alaska flying Yupik Eskimo and Athabasca Indians from remote villages in the Yukon Delta to Kako Retreat Center for Bible teaching, discipling, and fellowship. April returned in August with Tom and Mary Maxwell to fly for the final ladies' conference and bring MATA's Cessna 182 home, but were stymied by bad weather. N71333

was returned safely in September by a Mission Aviation Repair Center pilot and Moody Aviation student. It flew over 200 hours, carrying over 300 passengers and thousands of pounds of cargo. MATA students were excited for the opportunity to gain flight experience in field conditions while actually ministering. Thank you to those who supported our MATAthon or otherwise donated to help cover some of the fuel costs.

In addition to the flight ministry, MATA student Christine McDonald spent three weeks at Kako as a camp counselor. This was her third summer serving at Kako. (Christine is currently teaching in Cambodia for 5 months with ACTION International.) Margaret Lewis and Mary Maxwell also helped teach and counsel ladies, and John Lewis did a lot of maintenance work and enhanced the worship times playing guitar along with other men.



Jake



Jacqui

## '08 Summer Campers Return

Jake Buce, who participated in our 2008 Aviation Summer Camp, came up from Oregon for three weeks and completed most of the requirements for a Private Pilot license. He plans to continue training and get his license as soon as he turns 17 next year. Jacqui Grim, another 2008 camper, just began work on her Private Pilot license. Additionally, '09 camper Tim Reid just earned his Private Pilot license in Portland! His instructor Paul Root was just at MATA receiving advanced flight instruction before going for his Technical Evaluation with JAARS, air arm of Wycliffe Bible Translators. We are excited that some campers are pursuing aviation!



Tim

which resulted in her freedom and husband Martin's death. Gracia will visit MATA and speak on Wednesday **October 6th at 6:30pm at Atonement Free Lutheran Church**, just a few blocks east of MATA (**6905 172nd Ave, Arlington**) because we expect too big an audience for the hangar. She will be a featured speaker at Missions Fest Seattle on October 8th and 9th in Bellevue, so come hear more of her story there. (see [www.missionsfestseattle.org](http://www.missionsfestseattle.org))



P.O. Box 3655

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Arlington, WA 98223

Training Pilots on a Mission



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## Director's Corner

I want to share these thoughts from Pastor Paul Nash, advisor to the MATA Board of Directors. Paul received some of his flight training under Mike Crowell and has been very helpful to MATA, especially following Pastor Mike's fatal plane crash in 2005.

**What time is it?** A young seminarian, preaching in my home church this Sunday, challenged the congregation with this question. What time is it? The question has many variables, of course. Are we referring to the Day of the Lord? Are we talking about the time of day? A calendar day? A year? A season of life? The timing of shooting an approach in an instrument landing before a storm rumbles in? Last night doing instrument recurrency training I forgot to time a procedure turn. The result: no airport, no runway. I blew it, and missed the approach. I had to start over. It was a good lesson on critical timing. One fact runs as a common thread through all these scenarios, summed up in Eph. 5:16, "Make the most of your time."

I'm reminded of the last 12 years that MATA has been in existence. From the beginning of eternity, God knew that MATA would exist. He knew it would be a faith venture, dreamed up by a couple of guys with a love for flying and a desire to see people won for Christ. MATA has been a vehicle for carrying the Gospel around the world, providing training that allows people to best utilize their time for the Lord's work. We are grateful for what God is doing in the mission aviation community. We are grateful that the Lord has chosen MATA to continue.

These 12 years have not been easy. The commitment and faith of many have been tested. Our founder, Pastor Mike Crowell, was taken home to the Lord, along with a board member, Charlie, the same day, some years ago. We wondered what the future would hold.

But in God's timing, He brought new people, Gordon Bakke, Gary and Stacie Elliott, and others, to make sure the work of the mission aviation training through MATA would continue.

MATA has always been an organization operating on faith. When you ask the question, "What time is it?" it's appropriate to say, it's always time for a miracle, for God to provide and supply. We are grateful for His just-right provision. The absence of surplus funds can be a blessing. One of the things a missionary needs to learn is faith. Faith to depend on the Lord's calling, equipment, and finances. In MATA we have a real-life mission experience for each student, as we demonstrate and show we are living by faith. This is a simple, but dynamic feature, that each pilot and missionary candidate must understand if he is going to be effective in the Lord's work.

Looking to the future, we are grateful to the MATA students, staff, graduates, so many that have come from various denominations and church bodies. Each one is unified around the common goal of wanting to see the soul-saving message of Jesus Christ spread to those who haven't heard.

Jeremy and Lacey Crowell are serving as missionary/pastor pilot in Bristol Bay area of Alaska. We are proud to announce they are under call with AFLC Home Missions and FLAPS. They have completed seminary training and on June 18th we flew Gordon Bakke out to the ordination. It was a special day and having Gordon represent the MATA family was icing on the cake!

Jeremy and Lacey need our prayer support so they can redeem the time God has given them. Pray that many would come to know Jesus through their lives, marriage, and ministry.

Already they have been a blessing! If God lays it on your heart to support their Alaska ministry financially, please call the MATA office or AFLC Home Missions.

We want to say thank you to all of you who have prayed, cared, shared, helped, listened, fixed, swept, driven, housed, fed, all the MATA endeavors and missionary pilots. You have been redeeming the time. Thank you.

At this time, I must ask you to continue to pray for MATA, that we would be found faithful, diligent in our training of new pilots, for the glory of the Lord. Pray that God would continue to send students to MATA, new laborers for His own mission field.

We look to the Lord for His grace to use the time He has given us, to see more come to Christ.

Sincerely in Him,  
**Pastor Paul Nash**  
AFLC Home Mission Board



Pastor Paul Nash

We do pray for more students to train for missionary service. MATA tries to provide quality flight training at the lowest possible cost to the student. Staff have neither salaried position nor expense accounts; our main costs are hangar rent and aircraft insurance. We are thankful for the many who give to this ministry and would welcome others as some have had to reduce or stop giving. We thank the Lord for you all.



Gordon at Jeremy's ordination

**Gordon Bakke**  
Executive Director