

Mission Aviation Training Academy

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JULY 2012

IF WE LIVE,
WE LIVE TO
THE LORD;
AND IF WE
DIE, WE DIE
TO THE
LORD. SO
WHETHER
WE LIVE OR
DIE WE BE-
LONG TO
THE LORD.

ROMANS
14:8

"THEY DIED
TOGETHER,
IN A PLACE
THEY
DEARLY
LOVED TO
BE, DOING
WHAT THEY
LOVED, FOR
THE ONE
THEY
LOVED."

LANCE
ERICKSON
(JAY'S
BROTHER)

PRaises
ENGINE
CHANGE
N3711F
SUCCESSFUL

NEW
HANGAR
AND OFFICE
SPACE FOR
MATA

Gone Home to Glory... via Africa

On Saturday June 2nd we were shocked to hear that Jay and Katrina Erickson, who we introduced in our two previous newsletters, were killed in Zambia in the Chitokoloki Hospital's Cessna 206, which Jay was piloting. Jay was a Moody Aviation graduate who earned his flight instructor rating at



MATA, and after learning from Gordon the need for a pilot at the hospital, volunteered to move his family to Zambia to fill the position. Katrina was flying with Jay for the first time in Africa, while their daughters Marina (3) and Coral (1) were staying with others at the hospital mission station. After dropping off a patient at

another location, Jay and Katrina were returning to Chitokoloki when the plane struck an electrical tower and crashed into the Zambezi River. The impact this young couple had on those they touched in Zambia in just a few short months is indicated by Zambia's president declaring a national day of mourning, thousands of Zambians attending the burial service, blogs posted by nationals who knew, or knew of, Jay and Katrina, and testimonials of their mission co-workers.

You can find details about the accident, recovery effort, burial, etc. at <http://www.chitokoloki.com/> and Jay's recent contemplation about life and death on their personal website <http://www.missionflying.com/>. On Facebook (Cameron Jay Erickson page), Jay's brother Lance, who trained for missionary service alongside him at Moody Aviation, gives a fitting tribute to Jay and Katrina



while glorifying God. Please remember their daughters Marina and Coral, who will be raised by Jay's sister, as well as the rest of the family, friends, and co-workers in your prayers.



Jay's mother and Katrina's parents bring the girls home.

We Are Moving!

With the donation of 3 airplanes in a period of 13 months, MATA suddenly had more airplanes than we could fit in our hangar, and when Dary Finck joined MATA staff during that time, we did not have office space for him. The tenants in the adjacent hangar vacated about that time, so we seized the opportunity to rent that additional hangar floor



and office space. In recent months, building maintenance issues caused structural damage and threatened MATA assets, so we considered moving. Another hangar has become available, and the owner is very keen to have MATA lease it, discounting the rent and even putting up a large amount of the capital to construct office and classroom spaces. This generous assistance in relocating,

plus the recent offer of another airplane donation, lead us to believe that God may be positioning MATA for further growth, and that He will provide for the increase in rent. We will move to the new, larger hangar on the other side of the airport in August. Our phone and mailing address will stay the same, but the physical address will change to: **19002 59th Drive N.E.**



P.O. Box 3655
19002 59th Dr. N.E.
Arlington, WA 98223

Training Pilots for Missions

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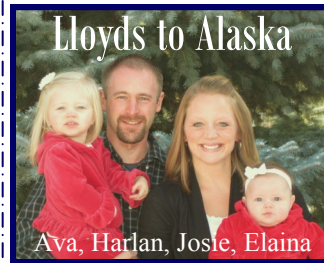
Kako Ministry Trip Proves Invaluable to MATA Students

Jonathan Miller writes:

From a flying perspective, Kako was a tremendous learning experience for both myself and Luke Eckhoff (Moody Aviation, Spokane). The flight from Arlington to Alaska in itself was the trip of a lifetime. The training I received at MATA proved invaluable, as we had to deal with a number of weather delays, moose on the runway, tough-to-navigate mountain passes, a broken cowl flap, rock chips in the propeller, thunderstorms, and high winds to complicate landings. All of this in order to bring kids and families from the remote villages to Christian camp for a week,

where they can have some relief from the spiritually oppressive environment in which they live.

In addition to the flying, I had the opportunity to speak to the 8- to 10-year-old group while I was there. I emphasized that we are created in God's image, that our lives are special and meaningful, that God has a plan for our lives, and that He loved us enough to bear the punishment of our sin and forgive us. The aviation fuel is very expensive in Alaska, so your support has been **very appreciated**. Find photos and videos on our website: www.mata-usa.org or on Facebook.



After spending this past year on deputation and adding baby Elaina to their family, the Lloyds are on the road to Soldotna, Alaska where they will serve with Mission Aviation Repair Center (MARC). We are thrilled to see another graduate reach the field. Please pray for them during the final leg of their trip

and as they adjust to a new home, ministry, and climate. God bless you Harlan and Josie!

Engine Swap Complete

Our previous newsletter announced that we would replace the engine on our Cessna 172, and thanks to all the work by Dary, Gordon, Myron and other volunteers, N3711F is now back in service! A BIG thanks to **Gundie's Auto Recyclers** in Bellingham for shipping back the old engine.

Director's Corner

Many of us live out a long, full life. For others life is relatively short. Jay and Katrina Erickson answered the call, which I was not able to, from Gordon Hanna, Administrator of Chitokoloki Mission Hospital in Zambia. He sent me an e-mail last year asking me to come and fly for them like I did when I lived in Zambia from 1967-1989. I had made hundreds of flights for the Brethren Missionaries (CMML), and many of those were in and out of Chitokoloki Airstrip. I had even stayed overnight there a time or two. When I mentioned this need for a pilot to our students, Jay (who was here training for his Certified Flight Instructor rating) expressed an inter-

est in this ministry opportunity. His dad, who had been a pilot in Cameroon, West Africa, encouraged them to go too. After just a few weeks into the one-year commitment Jay and Katrina had made, they realized that this was where they would love to serve for the next many years, not knowing they really only had a few more weeks to live. The Bible says that "the Lord has plans for us each one" so we continue to trust Him. Do we stop now? No, we don't. The need for missionary pilots is still great, so we carry on.

Airplane wings and hangar walls and too many airplanes in the same small hangar is a problem we have been dealing with for many years. We now have the opportunity to move to a hangar with nearly twice the floor space for not a whole lot more rent. The small office space in the

middle of the building will become the staff break room. A new office area inside the main entrance to the building, which is on the street side, is being built. The office should be ready by August 1st, our move-in date. Our new landlord wants to partner with MATA in this ministry, so the rent we will be paying her is way below the commercial rate. Perhaps you would like to partner with us in this ministry too. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, so your gifts or donations are tax deductible. Many of you have helped support our Alaska/Kako Bible camp ministry. Because Kako's plane was in the maintenance shop, MATA's plane has been flying lots of hours, even past midnight. During June and July in Northern Alaska it stays light so the pilot can fly safely late at night. Our pilots are getting valuable flight

experience and many adults, boys, and girls have had the opportunity to hear about Jesus and put their faith and trust in Him.

We thank all of you who donate to MATA. Your gifts make this ministry possible. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Gordon Bakke
Executive Director



Gordon and family during their years in Zambia.