

MATA

MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

425-231-5855
www.mata-usa.org



RECAP Mission Trip to Naknek, Alaska



Alaska continues as the place where the Lord opens the door for MATA to not only serve the local missions community but offer advanced training for MATA students. From February 22nd to 27th, a team led by MATA Executive Director Dary Finck went to serve AFLC (Assoc. of Free Lutheran Congregations) missionaries Jeremy and Lacey Crowell in Naknek, Alaska. In addition to the MATA students, Dary's wife Anna and their daughter Kinza, along with MATA Board Member and Atonement Free Lutheran Church (Arlington, WA) missions committee chairman, Ken Linder, joined the team.

The time in Naknek consisted of maintenance work on ministry aircraft and the local Christian radio station (KAKN) while encouraging the missionaries and local lay leaders. The trip was also a training ground introducing MATA students to cold weather operations and ministry in Alaska.



(L-R) Brock Welge, Michelle Craig, Chad DeVlieger, the Crowell & Finck Families

"The MATA maintenance team was a tremendous blessing accomplishing 15 days of work in 3 days! The help with the radio ministry was invaluable having needed computers installed in Naknek and the remote village of Igiugig."

- Jeremy Crowell, AFLC Missionary

"On the last work day we were all pretty discouraged with the amount of work remaining, but we continued to put our trust in Jesus and he showed us the way to accomplish the work that needed to get done. Now the airplane is flying again and HIS faithfulness still amazes me."

- Brock Welge, student

(L-R) Jeremy Crowell, Ken Linder, Dave Perkins



"Luke 6:38 summarizes my experiences on my 4th trip to Naknek. As I share my skills and talents in Alaska, God blesses me so much more in return with abundant relationships, deep conversations, and a future hope of seeing seeds that are planted becoming fruit for His Kingdom."

- Dave Perkins, student



Fundraiser Dinner for Mission Alaska

Saturday May 5, 2018 at Atonement Free Lutheran Church
Arlington, WA

As the Lord has led MATA to continue to minister and train its students in Alaska, we ask that you join us for our **2nd Annual Alaska Fundraiser Dinner**. This is a special evening of presentations, testimonies, and wonderful food and fellowship. We are asking for a **\$100/plate donation**. We are so grateful for all our supporters over the years who the Lord has raised up to pray for and fund our ministry of training and equipping pilots for mission aviation ministry! **Please call to reserve your spot today at 425-231-5855.** More details to come in the mail.

UP Coming Events



Check FB and our website for all the latest updates and schedules.

APRIL 26th-28th CHRISTIAN HERITAGE HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE
MATA will be present in an effort to build awareness for our ministry and mobilize future workers for the field.

MAY 5th MATA ALASKA FUNDRAISER DINNER

JULY 6th - 8th ARLINGTON, WA "FLY-IN"

22rd - 27th AVIATION SUMMER CAMP *We still have spaces available!*
Call Stacie at 425-231-5855 to inquire.



Capital Campaign Update

The purchase of the MATA hangar

We praise the Lord and are deeply grateful for those He has raised up to help us purchase the hangar this past December 27th!

Currently we have pledges extending out for 2 years towards the purchase but need \$122,000 by the end of 2018 to pay off the loan.

Would you pray about helping us finish this campaign by giving a donation?

Please call MATA for more information at 425-231-5855

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To save on postage costs, we are working to send out updates by e-mail. Please e-mail us your name and e-mail address if you are willing to make the switch from paper copies to e-mail in the future. *Thank you!*

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Student Corner



Aungsts in Alaska

Drew Aungst, one of MATA's staff mechanics and flight students, along with his wife Betty and baby, were in Fairbanks for the month of January. Drew was "on loan" to SEND North to help repair a Cherokee 6 ministry plane. Once repaired, it will be used by SEND to reach remote Alaskan villages with the Gospel. The plane was badly corroded from the salty sea air and both wings and the stabilator were detached. Drew spent the month addressing those issues. When the job required it, Vitaliy Nikishin, a MATA student, and SEND missionaries Don Ernst and Jerry Casey also lent a hand. A few necessary parts were ordered but did not arrive before the Aungsts returned home. Although the project was unable to be completed, the Aungsts were excited to help and explore the possibility of full-time ministry in Alaska.



Ian Rojas



Drew, Betty and baby

Alumni to the Field

Ian Rojas trained at MATA from 2012 to 2015. In the past year or so he has been diligently raising support to go to Indonesia as a pilot/mechanic with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

God has provided and Ian is 100% funded! He is in the final preparations at MAF's headquarters in Nampa, Idaho and preparing to leave this May for language school in Indonesia. *We rejoice with Ian as He goes to serve the missionaries and isolated peoples of Indonesia as a missionary pilot!*

New Students in Training



Dan Halvorson and his wife serve with AIM Air in Nairobi, Kenya. Dan is working on his flight instructor rating to better serve other co-workers.

Miles Ostrander and his family serve in the DRC, Africa with La Olan Ministries. Miles is working on his flight ratings to better serve the people in the remote area where he works.



Brock Welge says that he's been called to ministry his whole life. Brock has a family and is currently working on his instrument rating. He hopes to use his aviation skills, to include his mechanics license, to further God's Kingdom.

Director's Corner **DARY FINCK**

Prayer is the most powerful tool we have to further God's Kingdom work. Over the years, we have asked for prayer concerning needs at MATA, those involved with MATA and for Kingdom work. I wish to share how God has answered those requests and present new needs to pray for as we continue on in 2018.

Answered prayer: God has provided for our missionaries and students; the purchase of our hangar, significantly reducing our overhead; and state-of-the-art training tools to better prepare students for a safe missionary flying career • A godly Board of Directors who are themselves involved in direct ministry within their communities • MATA owns well-maintained aircraft that meet the training requirements outlined by the FAA and field use • A continual influx of new students who wish to be part of God's Kingdom work at home and

globally • Safe flying for our students with thousands of hours operating these past 10 years • Our students currently have a 100% acceptance rate when they interview for mission aviation agencies.

Prayer items for 2018: For God to continue to raise up prayer and financial supporters and to have full funding for our staff and students • That God would continually impress upon the hearts of students and staff the urgency for reaching the lost • That MATA would find favor in the eyes of those around us locally as we are witnesses of Christ's love and forgiveness at the Arlington Airport and beyond • That new strategic investments would lead to a more global role in training and equipping pilot's for missionary service around the world.

We are so grateful for your continued support!

Dary