

MATA

MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

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Mission Alaska

Practical and Spiritual Significance - Mission Alaska

July 31 - August 20, 2018



The harsh physical environment of rural Alaska meets the spiritual darkness so prevalent over village life and the people who reside there. A team from MATA comprised of John and Margaret Lewis, Gary and Stacie Elliott, and students Michelle Craig and Vitaliy Nikishin ministered at Kako Retreat Center during the annual women's berry-picking retreat to confront these two realities through the power of Christ. Practically speaking, Gary, John, and Vitaliy devoted hours of work to readying the camp before and during the women's retreat. Clearing bird nests from cabins, changing out water filters to have drinkable water, plus various other jobs kept the men busy at Kako. "You never seem to run out of work at Kako, and it was a blessing to use my skills in various ways to serve," Vitaliy commented.

For the native women, the retreat was of practical importance because berries picked would be stored and used throughout the year. Spiritually speaking, Stacie, Margaret, Michelle, Kako staff, and additional ministry volunteers from *HIS Story Ministries* used a ministry tool called Storyrope® to shed the light of God's grace upon the darkened backdrop of these women's lives. The 47 attending women saw through this particular craft how their story matters to God and fits into His greater story. Many opened up, sharing about hardships in their lives - *not a common cultural thing to do*. After 3 days at Kako, spiritual inroads were made, friendships were bonded, and a moment of significant reconciliation occurred between 4 sisters who had been in conflict for many years. *For all of you who supported this trip in prayer and financially, thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve and meet the practical and spiritual needs of so many!*

Alaska Flights

Taking to the skies from Arlington, WA on July 31, MATA pilots Michelle and Vitaliy, coached by instructor Gary Elliott, faced the challenging 2400 mile journey by air to Kako Retreat Center. "It was a great flight experience...the long cross-country through various weather systems and difficult IFR situations," Michelle recalled.

Once at Kako, the team served tirelessly flying to the villages to pick up the women for the retreat. It was not only invaluable training, but a joy for Michelle and Vitaliy to serve using the aviation skills they acquired at MATA.



20 years ago...

...MATA first took flight!

Come celebrate with us!

Sat., Dec 1, 2018 at the MATA Hangar
(more details to come)



MATA founder, Mike Crowell, and student, Brandon Penkoff, in an early photo.

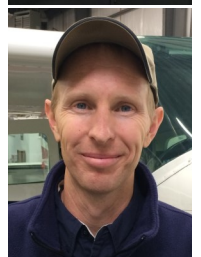
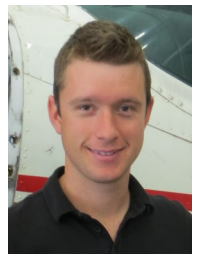
In Marshall, Alaska

John and Margaret Lewis again demonstrated Christ-like love for the people of Marshall while serving in their remote village. Lives continue to be impacted by their kindness, generous giving, and encouragement to all. They also had the opportunity to show the Jesus film to village youth who viewed it for the very first time. *Thank you for praying and providing for their ministry!*



Prepping for the Field

MATA has the privilege of training missionary candidates and missionaries currently serving on the field. Recently, we prepared **John Troyer** (top) for his technical evaluation at JAARS, which he passed! **Brandon Penkoff** (bottom) is a MATA graduate serving with JAARS in Cameroon. He is at MATA now during his family's furlough prepping for his multi-engine rating. *Please pray for these and all our trainees that the Lord will grant success for the advancement of His Kingdom around the world!*



UP Coming ...



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

Sept. 29 **ARLINGTON "COMMUNITY AIRPORT DAY"** MATA will have a static display and booth. Stop by from 9am - 2pm.

Oct. 19-20 **MISSIONSFEST SEATTLE** MATA will have a booth and take part in two days of kid's presentations. Learn more at www.missionsfestseattle.org.

Dec. 1 **MATA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY** Mark your calendar and come celebrate with us! More details to come via the mail, Facebook, and our website.

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STUDENT Corner

Commercial Pilot License



Melody, 7/13/18



Vitaliy, 7/19/18



Michelle, 7/28/18

Please continue to pray for our students as they train and prepare to serve in full-time missions. Some are already full-time missionaries, like Miles (pictured right). Three days after achieving his Private Pilot license, he and his family boarded a plane back to the Congo where they serve in full-time ministry.

Private Pilot License



Miles, 9/8/18



Rejoice with maintenance intern Justin Vaughan and wife Addison, who welcomed their first baby on Sept. 14th!

Former MATA CFI Benjamin Bookman and current CFI Ella Robbins just got engaged on Sept. 17th!



Director's Corner DARY FINCK



Mission Aviation Training Academy has been blessed these last 20 years with Godly men to lead and guide the program. Over the years, God has called some home and others have passed the baton. Just recently, Gary Elliott, MATA's Board Chairman, has handed the chairmanship to board member Ken Linder to focus on the day-day flight training. This transition took many months of preparation, so the transition would be smooth. Gary remains a board member and our Chief Flight Instructor and Chief of flight operations. I want to highlight the incredible job Gary and his wife Stacie have done for MATA. Without their leadership and dedication, this program would not have been a success. Thank you Gary for your leadership and example of a Godly man.



Gary and Stacie Elliott

MATA Maintenance

Inspecting & Repairing Outside Aircraft for our Training Ministry



Maintenance team: Drew, Dary, Doug, and Justin

N300HP, a Cessna A185F, flew over 14,000 hours as a MAF missionary plane in Indonesia. The two brothers who now own the plane (former MKs in Indonesia whose dad flew this very plane) loaned the plane to MATA to be used for high-performance, tailwheel training. Before the training could begin, MATA maintenance performed an Annual Inspection and took care of a number squawks and heavy maintenance items, to include refurbishing the main landing gear springs. After months of work the plane made its first flight on Sept. 15th! Flight students were eager to begin training in it. Whether at MATA or on the mission field, maintenance work is a behind-the-scenes service which allows mission pilots to fly safely in their ministry. The next big project before the maintenance team is working on an on-loan Cessna 310 which will be used for multi-engine training.



Chief pilot, Gary Elliott, on the first flight!