

# MATA

MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

425-231-5855

[www.mata-usa.org](http://www.mata-usa.org)

MATAUSA  Find us on: facebook.

## Operation Christmas Child



*"Through the doors of MATA to the world over 9000 shoeboxes, eternally blessing little boys and little girls."*

Each year Samaritan's Purse delivers millions of shoeboxes to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Seeing that *"every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love,"* MATA was excited to partner with OCC as a drop-off location for the town of Arlington and for Snohomish County. With three MATA families out sick, the rest of the MATA crew and volunteers completed the week-long job of receiving, counting, documenting, packing in large cartons, and loading the trucks with 9644 shoeboxes!

**Amy Nunziato**, OCC Team Leader and **Dary Finck**, MATA Director after the trucks were loaded. MATA student **Chad DeVlieger** "mans" the forklift. The MATA hangar had plenty of space for counting all those boxes.



## STUDENTS IN FOCUS

**Vitaliy Nikishin** is currently finishing testing for his mechanic rating. He will serve at MATA as a mechanic while flight training to prepare for Ethnos360 Aviation's technical evaluation. *Please pray for God's provision as Vitaliy quit his job for full time preparation.*



**Commercial : October 19<sup>TH</sup> Justin Vaughan** earned his Pilot



Commercial Pilot certificate and will transition his family to Palau, Micronesia in January to serve as a pilot-mechanic. He will be on loan, as MATA staff, to Pacific Mission Aviation for one year. *Please pray as they finish raising support for their upcoming ministry.*

## MATA TRAINING "BY THE NUMBERS" 2021

We are grateful to the Lord for all our student achievements and their successes this year at MATA!

**PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE - 1 student**

**INSTRUMENT RATING - 3 students**

**COMMERCIAL PILOT CERTIFICATE - 3 students**

**FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR Certificate - 1 student**

**FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR INSTRUMENT RATING - 1 student**

**TECHNICAL EVALUATION PREP COURSE - 7 students**

**TAILWHEEL AIRPLANE ENDORSEMENT - 1 student**

## MISSIONS FEST SEATTLE



**Doug Nunziato** (pictured above) and several other MATA staffers represented MATA at Missions Fest Seattle. Many new contacts were made during this regional missions conference last month.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

*"I am the resurrection and the life."*  
John 11:25



**Steve Irwin**, friend of MATA and volunteer, went home to be with the Lord last month. Steve provided all the electrical expertise and much labor wiring the new MATA classrooms just constructed this year. He will be dearly missed.

## Ministry Events

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

### LOOKING TOWARDS 2022

- January 15** MATA Aviation Summer Camp application process opens See <https://www.mata-usa.org/summer-aviation-camp/>
- February 5-12** MATA Ministry Trip, Naknek, Alaska  
MATA students will gain maintenance experience working on missionary aircraft alongside MATA alumnus Jeremy Crowell serving with FLAPS (Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters).
- February 24-27** 1st Baptist Church Missions Conference, Arlington, WA  
MATA will participate to share all God is doing through our ministry in an effort to encourage attendees and mobilize more workers for the field.

## MATA ALUMNI SERVING TOGETHER

On occasion, MATA alumni become local teammates, serving together in Kingdom work and this is a *real joy* for us at MATA to see. Currently on the field, the following alumni are working side-by-side in ministry:

**Jeremy Crowell and Josh Fish**

Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters (FLAPS) *Naknek, Alaska*

**Amos Collins, Brock Welge, and Melody Coleman**

Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA), *Yap and Palau (Micronesia)*

**Drew Aungst and Jack Zisakis**

Missionary Flights International (MFI), *Ft. Pierce, Florida*

**Bryan Eygabroad (left)**

**and Chad Dimon (right)**

and their families

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

*Lesotho (Africa)*





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## "HANGAR SHOTS"



Student **Annamarie van der Meijden** smiles as she posts her first log book entry as a new A&P aircraft mechanic after a 50-hour oil change .



**Justin Vaughan** and **Director Dary Finck** take a "brief" siesta in the sun after working hard to defuel a Cessna 185.



**Justin Vaughan** receives a congratulatory box of donuts from daughter Annabelle after passing his Commercial Pilot checkride (wife Addison and his other daughter Alice look on with smiles).

Dear friends and supporters of MATA,  
*I wish to extend warm Christmas greetings to every one of you from the MATA family!*

As we work year by year to train and equip the next generation of missionary pilots, while also navigating through the challenges before us, *we remember dearly* your faithful partnership in the Gospel. You are an *encouragement* to us and a gift to the MATA ministry from the Lord. *A sincere thank you from all of us!*

May the Lord bless each of you with the peace of Christ this Christmastime as we look forward to all He will do in and through us in 2022 - *for His glory alone!*

*Dary Finck*  
MATA Director

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)*

