

# MATA

MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

425-231-5855

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

MATAUSA  Find us on: facebook.



## Plan to Change Your Plans

*A brief recap of 1 month's service in Alaska*

**"THE HEART OF MAN PLANS HIS WAY, BUT THE LORD ESTABLISHES HIS STEPS."** - Prov 16:9

We make our plans in life but then somehow think we can also control how those plans will turn out. For MATA staffer, **Vitaliy Nikishin**, his ministry trip to Alaska reminded him otherwise. On June 15th, after weeks of planning, **Scott Quist** (MATA Board Chairman & instructor) and Vitaliy departed MATA for Alaska in N39MP. Plans already had changed as Canada's strict border crossing mandates diverted the team up the weather-risky Pacific coast to Ketchikan, AK. But God opened a weather window they flew straight through. Missionary pilots are also typically mechanics, and this paid-off as Vitaliy faced unplanned mechanical issues shortly after arriving in Alaska. Another change in plans arose for Vitaliy with an opportunity to fly for Tanalian Bible Camp in Port Alsworth. This opportunity presented Vitaliy the blessing of seeing lives changed through Tanalian's camp ministry.

En route to Kako Retreat Center via the village of Marshall (to see former MATA staffers **John and Margaret Lewis**) the unexpected happened again. The team encountered fog which turned a relatively tranquil flight into an intense instrument approach. Once arriving at Kako and after airstrip checkouts with Scott, Vitaliy was released to fly solo. Working at Kako stretched and grew Vitaliy **1)** as a pilot, as he flew regularly bringing kids into camp from surrounding villages in less than ideal conditions, **2)** as a mechanic, as many planned and unplanned maintenance issues arose, and **3)** as a missionary, seeing how dependance on God through the "changed plans" matured him while resulting in Gospel blessings for those he served. On July 19th, Vitaliy returned to MATA, tired yet filled up from his wonderful experience.

*Thank you for supporting MATA and its **Mission Alaska** training program for our students!*

## A FLEET NEED



We informed you in our last letter about the need for a Cessna 170/180 to help in training and our Alaska ministry. We are excited to announce that we received the official word on September 16th that we were approved by **M.J. Murdoch Charitable Trust** for a matching grant of **\$87,500!** We praise the Lord for his provision through the Murdoch Trust and supporters who donated generously towards this project! Now that funds are provided, *please pray that the Lord would provide the perfect plane.*



MATA hosted in May, for the second time, the Washington Chapter of the Black Pilots of America Flying Club, the Red-Tailed Hawks (RTH). The club's visit to MATA was filled with instruction and hands-on activities related to flight and the maintenance of aircraft. The Gospel was also clearly shared with the kids during a presentation on mission aviation. The staff at MATA has built a rapport with the quality leaders of the RTH, some of them Christian, and we hope to host them again in the future.

## Aviation Summer Camp for TEENS

*"That week in July was really a life-changing experience for me ... I just wanted to say thank you for making that possible!"*  
- Camper, 2022

Summer camp continues to be a labor of love at MATA as the program continues to impact kids for the Kingdom. Our recent camp saw 18 teens introduced to flight and mission aviation. The campers received staff devotionals each morning and missionary testimonies and teachings each evening led by **Gary Elliott**. The week's activities culminated in the planning and execution of a cross-country flight to 3 different airports in the Puget Sound area. Many smiles and "stories of adventure" capped off the week's experience for the kids. For more information see: [mata-usa.org/top-menu-activities-aviation-summer-camp/](http://mata-usa.org/top-menu-activities-aviation-summer-camp/)



Camper's ready to take to the skies in Cessna 172, N5363K.

## Ministry Events

Check-out Facebook and our website for the latest updates and schedules

- October 8** **MATA and Ethnos360 Youth Missions Event**, at the MATA facility  
A local area church youth group will participate and receive an introduction to missions and mission aviation.
- October 15** **2022 Missions Expo**, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Stanwood, WA  
MATA staffers **Clayton and Becky Howie** and other missionaries, local nonprofits, and para-church organizations will be gathering together to provide information on their work and updates on their ministries.
- October 22** **Youth Hangar Day**, at the MATA Facility  
Youth from Family Bible Church (Oak Harbor, WA) will learn about mission aviation while cleaning the hangar and packing needed items which will be sent to MATA alum and wife, **Daniel and Ana Jones**, in Mexico.
- November 4-5** **Missions Fest Seattle**, Westgate Chapel, Edmonds, WA  
MATA will participate in an effort to mobilize new workers for mission aviation ministry.
- November 14-21** **Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week**, at the MATA facility  
MATA is the primary shoebox drop-off for the City of Arlington, WA, and central drop-off for Snohomish County, WA.

# MATA MAINTENANCE

Steady maintenance work has kept the team moving at a regular pace in the hangar. Since June alone, there have been multiple oil changes, three annual inspections, and multiple discrepancies that had to be corrected for safe flight training to take to the skies. Currently in the hangar - and keeping the guys busy - for needed maintenance work are (pictured right, from front to back):

**N39MP (Cessna U206)** - Recently returned from Alaska, it is getting a full annual inspection done along with repairs and the addition of a vortex generator modification.

**N13255 (Cessna 172M)** - This aircraft continues to be repaired and is closer every day to being ready to fly. Having received it as a bequeathed gift this spring, we are still petitioning for financial gifts towards the maintenance costs and upgrades to this plane. A sincere thanks to all who have already given graciously towards this project! Please contact us to learn more at 425-231-5855 or you can donate through the General Fund preferencing "N13255" at: [www.mata-usa.org/donate](http://www.mata-usa.org/donate).

**N2261T (Cessna R182)** - After years of service, its engine is finally due for an overhaul. With the engine shipped and with parts distribution channels still slow-moving, we anticipate its return in 4-6 months for reinstallation.



The maintenance team (from left): Doug Nunziato, Director of Maintenance; Dary Finck, MATA Director; Vitaliy Nikishin, Maintenance staff

## STUDENT NEWS

### New Private Pilots!



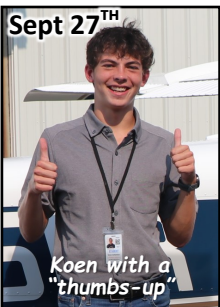
July 9<sup>TH</sup>

Brady with instructor Vic (left) and the FAA Designated Examiner (right)

Brady Fehr and wife Heather (pictured right) drove across the country from Pittsburg to come to MATA. As current full-time Youth With A Mission (YWAM) missionaries, Brady sensed the Lord moving him to pursue mission aviation ministry. While Brady trained, Heather also studied at the hangar for her TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) certificate. After Brady achieved his Private Pilot certificate, they made the long trip back to the "Burg." Please pray for them as they consider next steps which might include continued flight and maintenance training at MATA.



Heather



Sept 27<sup>TH</sup>

Koen with a "thumbs-up"

Koen Schweizer is a 2021 MATA summer camper who returned to MATA to begin his pilot training. He is from Mt. Vernon, WA, and is a competitive cross-country runner and swimmer. As an athlete, Koen applied himself and persevered in like manner in the MATA Private Pilot training course to achieve his Private Pilot certificate. Please pray for Koen as he seeks the Lord's direction forward with his school studies and using aviation to serve the Lord.

Gregorio Ortiz has the goal of bringing Christ's message of hope and love to the communities of Mexico through mission aviation. He came to MATA for our Technical Evaluation (TE) Prep course. He lives in Mexico and enrolled in our program through a Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) recommendation. Since finishing at MATA, Gregorio has traveled between Mexico and Guatemala, serving in the church and gaining valuable flight and maintenance experience. In Guatemala he even had the opportunity to help with a medivac flight. Please pray the Lord would continue to direct his path forward into mission aviation service.



Gregorio

### PRAYER UPDATE ON:



**Bryan & Mari Eygabroad**, serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Lesotho (Africa). The Eygabroads report that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is requesting "further evidence" concerning their daughter Bella's adoption. Once submitted and approved, they can move forward toward a visa. Please pray God's hand over them through this process that they would be able to join us in 2023 as staff at MATA.

### A Praise for AIRPORT COMMUNITY DAY!

MATA staffers Clayton and Becky Howie had the joy of working side-by-side with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) during this free event at the Arlington (WA) Municipal Airport. Together, MATA and CEF ministered to over 125 kids, and 11 trusted Christ as their Savior!



Sharing candy airplanes, face painting, and the Gospel with kids

### from TOGO, WEST AFRICA

JAARS pilot (and MATA alum) John Troyer as his French teacher instructs him with his MATA notebook close at hand!

