

MATA

MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

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USING AIRCRAFT TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL IN ALASKA

Serving at Kako Retreat Center

Is it worth it? Skies filled with mosquitos, sickness and body pain, deteriorating weather conditions, and unexpected maintenance issues are what **Vitaliy Nikishin** faced as he served at Kako Retreat Center this past summer for six weeks. Vitaliy is a MATA staffer, pilot/mechanic, and former MATA student still preparing to serve in full-time missions overseas one day soon. These Alaska ministry trips have sharpened him not only as a pilot and a mechanic, but as a missionary.

The needs in Alaska are great. Many children live in villages where the light of Christ has not yet shone. There are sad realities due to sin that exist in the lives of these kids and their families. So even one week at Kako summer camp, hearing the Gospel, learning from God's Word, and interacting with other kids in a safe place makes an eternal difference. From Vitaliy's July 2 update: "Noticed one boy at Bible time listening intently, mouth wide open, body still, as the teacher was sharing the story of 12-year-old Jesus in the temple."



Vitaliy's backseat passengers having a little fun on their way to camp.

MATA flight and maintenance training combined with real-world ministry shapes our students for future missionary work while making an eternal impact. Thank you for continuing to support this Alaska ministry program.

So, is it worth it? Yes, it's worth it.

Partnership with "TLC"

Tanalian Bible Camp (TBC) in Port Alsworth, Alaska is home for missionaries **Matt and Abi McWhorter**. Both are pilot-mechanics and in addition, Abi is a Certified Flight Instructor.

The McWhorters serve at Tanalian Leadership Center (TLC), a program at TBC designed for post high school Alaskan Natives to help them grow in the Word of God and develop life and career skills.

MATA has partnered with TLC and the McWhorters to supply a training aircraft, N6056R (Cessna 172G), to assist in their program's mission.

We are excited to help TLC contribute to the discipling of Alaskan youth and extending the Gospel as N6056R will be used for flight instruction and transporting pastors and missionaries to and from TBC to the 30 different surrounding villages.



Abi and Matt visited MATA for training and standardization.

Remembering MYRON DAVIS



Myron was called home to be with his Lord and Savior on August 20, 2023. He served at MATA from 2002 - 2017 on the MATA Board and also for a number of years as the Chief of Maintenance.

Myron was a highly qualified maintenance specialist who also had an extensive background in teaching the Bible at the college level. *He will be missed by all.*

The MATA Fleet has Grown! ... and a much-needed engine conversion.

MATA received a 1977 Cessna Cardinal from a beloved supporter and friend who passed earlier this year. It will serve as MATA's first "Technically Advanced Aircraft" due to its electronic instrument system. In addition, from the funds raised and a grant from the Murdoch Foundation, MATA purchased a 1959 Cessna 180B which will be used for tailwheel training and the "Alaska Mission" ministry. And for MATA's faithful trainer, N3711F (Cessna 172H), the existing underpowered Continental O-300 engine was converted to a Lycoming O-360 thereby adding 35 horsepower and expanding it's scope of use for flight training.



N3711F on approach!

Praise the Lord for His provision through others! The Cardinal (left) and Cessna 180B (right).



Ministry Events

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

September 17

Community Outreach Event, Glad Tidings Darrington, Darrington, WA

MATA staff will take part in a missions-emphasis Sunday at Glad Tidings church to include sharing in the morning worship service and offering airplane rides as a ministry outreach to the community of Darrington.

September 23-24

Mission Aviation and Technology Fair, Smoketown, PA

MATA staffers **Clayton and Becky Howie** will represent MATA at this annual family event at the Smoketown Airport focused on promoting and mobilizing for mission aviation.

October 30

Ethnos360 Bible Institute, Waukesha, WI

MATA Executive Director **Dary Finck** will present during the chapel time and seek to connect with students.

November 3-4

Missions Fest Seattle, Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, WA

MATA will participate in an effort to mobilize new workers for mission aviation ministry.



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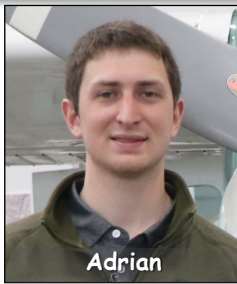
STUDENT AND STAFF NEWS



Nate



Derek



Adrian



Jed



Stefanie, Ezra, and Casey

MATA is structured to receive short-term students who need specific training to serve on the mission field. **Nate Calhoun**, a Liberty University graduate in aviation, came to us in March for training and experience in N39MP, our Cessna U206, as he is preparing for the mission field. **Derek Reimer** and **Adrian Visser** came in April and May for the Kako Field Prep Course. Both these pilots were giving of their time to serve at Kako Retreat Center over the summer and needed the Field Prep Course to hone their skills for flying kids in and out of the Kako “dog legged” airstrip.

MATA’s **Part 141 Pilot School program** has taken off with three new Private Pilot course students. **Jedidiah Williams** is a former MATA summer camper who desires to serve the Lord in aviation. **Casey Underwood** is our first 141 student to solo and he is also serving at MATA as a maintenance intern. He and his wife Stefanie are hoping to serve with Ethnos360. **Zach Kupser** and his wife Katy have led VBS teams in villages in Alaska and desire to return after training. Zach’s goal is to get all his flight and maintenance training at MATA.



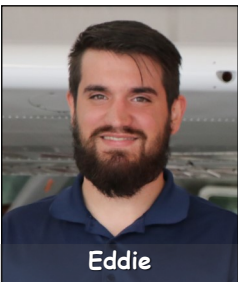
Zach and Katy



Abigail

New Additions to Maintenance

Abigail McMillan was a 2017 MATA summer camper. Since camp, her desire to serve the Lord in missions has recently brought her back to MATA. Having graduated from Ethnos360 Bible Institute and participated in a 4-month mission trip to Brazil, Abigail started at MATA as a maintenance apprentice with the goal of achieving not only her maintenance certificates, but also all her pilot ratings.



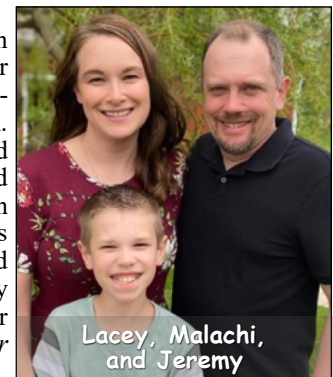
Eddie

Eddie Hooke was a 2016 MATA summer camper and is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute’s Aviation program. He is a pilot/mechanic and comes to MATA to serve as maintenance staff after spending a year as a mechanic on aerial firefighting aircraft. He and his wife Katelynn, who is training to be a Bible translator, hope to be serving one day in Bible translation work.

The Crowells Return to MATA

Jeremy Crowell was one of MATA’s first students and his late father, Mike, founded MATA in 1998. After many years of training to include seminary, Jeremy and wife Lacey accepted the call to serve full-time in Naknek, Alaska with FLAPS (Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters) in August of 2010.

After 13 years of service in Naknek, Jeremy saw the door open to return and fill a much-needed position at MATA. Jeremy is a CFII (Certified Flight Instructor Instrument) and a mechanic with Inspection Authorization. He also brings his pastoral experience as he and his family have served faithfully the Native peoples of Alaska for 13 years. *Please pray for their transition to MATA.*



Lacey, Malachi, and Jeremy