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SUMMER MINISTRY WORK SUMMED UP ...

SAMARITAN AVIATION

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) Bringing Help and Encouragement

The Nunziato family and Vitaliy Nikishin represented MATA serving for three weeks in PNG this summer alongside the team of missionaries



Analise, Amy, Nate, and Doug Nunziato with Vitaliy Nikishin arriving in Wewak, PNG after 3 days of travel.

with Samaritan Aviation (SA). Samaritan Aviation needed maintenance help, and MATA personnel responded and brought help and encouragement to their team. Doug worked through a needed 100-hour inspection on their Cessna 206 amphibian aircraft, while Vitaliy spent significant time on a complicated door modification. Amy and the kids provided a multi-week art class for the home-schooled missionary kids on the compound, which greatly encouraged the moms. The SA Field Director summed up the visit, *"Thank you for all the love, hard work, and expertise you guys blessed us with every day of your time here."*



Doug flew with Matt Condon (left), MATA alum, on a medevac flight to pick up a patient on the Sepik River. (Pictured right) Josh, Director of Maintenance, and Vitaliy assess a door modification project.

ALASKA New Opportunities & New Challenges

With MATA's traditional location of Alaska summer ministry, Kako Retreat Center, having plenty of pilots, MATA saw a new opportunity with another Bible camp in need of pilots. MATA's Executive Director, **Dary Finck**, and three students, **Casey Underwood**, **Eddie Hooke**, and **Chad DeVlieger**, made the trip to Kokrine Hills Bible Camp about 170 miles west of Fairbanks to serve the camp.

The weather was the most difficult and demanding part of the trip. Additionally, smoke and fires required the team to fly by instruments or even change plans and cancel flights. Ultimately through all these challenges, the MATA team was able to bring campers and counselors to camp, serve and encourage local missionaries, and participate in a critical medevac from Kokrine Hills to Fairbanks.

Thank you for your investment in our students and the campers of Kokrine Hills!



Dary Finck (on left, black coat) and Eddie Hooke (on right, orange sweatshirt) with muddy, Kokrine Hills campers.

"The purpose of our Alaska ministry trip is to introduce students to real-time aeronautical decision-making while operating in remote areas ... and also working with people from different cultures and different backgrounds from all over the country."
- Dary Finck (pictured above)

MISSION AVIATION SUMMER CAMP took place the last week of July and proved, once again, to be a worthwhile annual endeavor. Eighteen teenagers from around the country came to MATA to be instructed in flight, world missions, and mission aviation ministry. After camp, one of the teens wrote back to her instructor saying, *"Thanks so much for being my instructor. You gave me a want to pursue missions. I will never forget this week and all you and the staff did for us."*

In September, MATA hosted for the 3rd time the **RED-TAILED HAWKS FLYING CLUB**. This club is the Washington Chapter of the Black Pilots of America. Over 20 teens came to MATA where we had the opportunity to clearly share the Gospel and provide hands-on aviation training. The leadership and all the participants had a blessed time and we in turn, were blessed by them.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Faithful MATA volunteer **KEN ENGMAN** went home to be with his Savior, August 11, 2024.



NEW VOLUNTEER

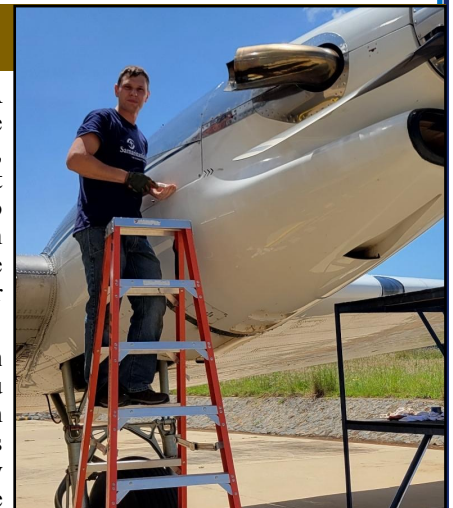
MARTY PETERSON joins the Facility Team bringing plumbing and other hands-on experience.



Alumni to the Field

Vitaliy Nikishin, former MATA student and staffer, landed on the mission field in Entebbe, Uganda, with **Samaritan's Purse** this past August. He has already been put to work in various tasks, including on DC-3s and Caravans, which have been aiding in the relief work for refugees in South Sudan.

This past April, alumnus **Dillan Wakeford** arrived in Palau (Micronesia) as an intern with **Pacific Mission Aviation**. Dillan is getting in lots of flight and ministry experience as he prepares for full-time missionary service in the future.



Vitaliy working on a Samaritan Purse DC-3

2024 Ministry Events

Check out Facebook, Instagram, and our website for the latest updates and schedules.

- October 3** "Connect 2024" Converge Northwest Conference, Stanwood, WA
Staffers **Clayton and Becky Howie** will attend this pastors' conference in an effort to build awareness among northwestern pastors and their churches about MATA and its ministry.
- October 18-19** Missions Fest Seattle, Renton, WA
MATA staff will seek to mobilize and spread awareness at this annual missions conference. MATA will have a vendor booth, and staffers **Don & Lisa Belfils** and **Doug Nunziato** will speak at conference sessions.
- Nov. 18-25** **Operation Christmas Child** (National Collection Week), the MATA facility
MATA will be the Arlington, WA, local drop-off and Snohomish County central drop-off location for shoeboxes this year. Please visit www.samaritanpurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ to learn more.



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Student Report

Please pray for our students!



TIO TOBING



CASEY UNDERWOOD



KEN HUNTSINGER



ETHAN EDWARDS



ABIGAIL McMILLAN



NATHANIEL SCONYERS

MATA students consistently study hard and train hard to learn needed mission aviation skills.

Flight training takes focus, discipline, and perseverance. The process develops an individual not just in the skills of flight, but also in character development. **Tio** is from Indonesia and just began this process towards becoming a private pilot. He is excited to follow in his family's footsteps serving the Lord in full-time ministry, as his dad serves full-time with Evangelism Explosion. Other students who are diligently training for the mission field and are close to checkrides are (pictured above):

- Instrument Rating - Casey
- Private Pilot Certificate - Ken, Ethan, Abigail, Nathaniel
- CFII - Nate (see below, right)



Seats are empty in the study room as students take to the skies for flight training



Tio, with instructor Jeremy, before their first flight lesson

Please pray for God's provision and that all our students will finish with successful checkrides.



Zach with Katy and their baby celebrating becoming a Private Pilot

Congratulations to Zach!

Private Pilot Certificate
July 18

Following his initial flight training, **Zach** will become a maintenance apprentice and join the MATA staff.

Please pray for him and Katy as they raise support for this new role for Zach and as they continue to prepare for the mission field.

FORMER STUDENTS RETURN TO MATA FOR TRAINING



Brock Welge (right) with the FAA Designated Pilot Examiner

Congratulations to Brock!
Certified Flight Instructor (CFI)
August 27

Former MATA student **Brock** serves with **Pacific Mission Aviation** as the base manager on Palau (Micronesia). He returned to MATA this summer, during his family's home assignment, to earn his CFI certificate.

FORMER STUDENT RETURNS AS MATA STAFF



(left to right) Matthias, Mari, Bella, and Bryan Eygabroad

The **Bryan Eygabroad** family will join MATA, by God's grace through your many prayers, beginning this January. Bryan will be on loan from MAF to serve as a flight instructor on the MATA staff. The Eygabroads have gone through a lengthy and trying process to be able to bring their adopted daughter Bella back to the States from their service in Lesotho (Africa). *Please continue to pray as they wait for approval for Bella's paperwork on her citizenship status.*

Nate, with wife Becca, returned to MATA to add an Instrument rating to his Flight Instructor certificate. As Nate is close to finishing his training, they continue to pray for God's direction as to where He would have them serve in ministry.



Nate & Becca Mills



Benjamin Bookman

Benjamin Bookman, along with wife Ella, spent many years at MATA in training and preparation for the mission field. He recently returned to MATA to complete the Technical Evaluation (TE) Prep course as he prepares to have a flight evaluation later this fall for African Inland Mission (AIM) Air.