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Operation Christmas Child



For the fourth year in a row, MATA has cooperated with Samaritan's Purse to further Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a program which sends Christmas gift shoeboxes to needy children around the world. Shoeboxes contain small gifts like toys and personal hygiene items, along with a simple children's book explaining the original Christmas gift, the Son of God sent to redeem mankind. Samaritan's Purse estimates that each book will pass through the hands of an average of 10 people, making it an effective method of sharing the Gospel.



The MATA facility again served as a city of Arlington location for individuals to drop-off shoeboxes during the third week of November. Then on November 25th the hangar became the central drop-off collection location for participating churches in Snohomish County. The churches delivered cartons packed with shoeboxes, usually 15 shoeboxes to a carton. MATA staff members and volunteers from the Arlington area unloaded cartons from the trucks as they arrived from all over Snohomish County, stacked them on the hangar floor, carefully inventoried them, then transferred them to pallets for forklift loading into semi-trailers. MATA loaded cartons containing over 9,600 gift shoeboxes for trucking to California and then further distribution overseas to the children awaiting their delivery.



(from left) Unloading and stacking boxes. Director Dary Finck working with OCC volunteers counting boxes. Loading into the container to ship.

A note of thanks and items needing prayer.

We at MATA remain eternally grateful for your faithful prayers, financial gifts, and love for this unique ministry God has given to us. This past year as seen many blessings for which we can be thankful. Blessings in small moments of unexpected provision and blessing in clear wisdom, direction, and unity with bigger projects and endeavors.

As we look to 2025 and beyond, we see MATA is maximizing our current facility regarding staff offices and floor space. **Please be in prayer** as we explore new ways to expand our space to better utilize all the Lord has given us. **Also pray** for our MATA team, that God would richly continue to provide the financial support needed for each staffer. **And pray** for our students, current and future, that God would uphold them and grant them all they need as they pursue His call to serve in missions. We know in everything we can give thanks because MATA is the Lord's work and we are His servants, preparing Kingdom workers in the specialized field of mission aviation.

Thank you again for your faithful support ... Merry Christmas!

Looking ahead: 2025 Ministry Events

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

January 15, 2025

Mission Aviation Summer Camp Applications Available

For those of you who have been waiting, applications come on-line Jan. 15th for MATA's 2025 summer camp. Visit www.mata-usa.org and click on "Activities" to find the camp link.

February 2025

MATA Maintenance Winter Trip, Naknek, AK

Jeremy Crowell will lead a team back to his former place of ministry to perform needed maintenance on the FLAPS (Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters) ministry's fleet of aircraft.

MATA BOARD UPDATES

After 16 years of serving faithfully on MATA's Board of Directors, **Jeremy Crowell** stepped down from his position in September. Jeremy is now serving on MATA staff as Director of Flight Operations and FAA Part 141 Flight School Assistant Chief Instructor.

Taking Jeremy's place on the MATA Board is **Jonathan Miller**. Jonathan is a welcome addition as a former MATA student and missionary kid who grew up in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Learn more about Jonathan and Jeremy, the rest of the MATA board and staff, and our alumni on our website under "About Us."



Jeremy (top) and Jonathan (bottom).





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Student Report

Please pray for our students!



Congratulations New Private Pilots!

(left) Nathaniel Nov. 6th and Ken (right) Nov. 7th with instructor Don.

Last newsletter's "Student Report" showcased 6 flight students working to earn pilot certificates and ratings.

We are pleased to report that **Nathaniel Sconyers** and **Ken Huntsinger** passed the checkride with an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) to earn their Private Pilot certificates. Ken will continue right into his instrument training next, while Nathaniel continues to work towards his A&P mechanic license as an apprentice at a nearby shop, Vertex Aviation.

Additionally, **Nate Mills** passed his FAA checkride on December 2nd to add the Instrument-Airplane rating to his Flight Instructor certificate. This rating will make Nate more employable as a flight instructor, which should help him build flight time and experience to meet the requirements of mission aviation ministries.

DPE Shortage!

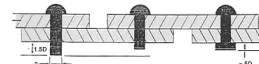


Ethan, Abigail, and Casey awaiting their checkrides.

There is a nation-wide shortage of FAA Designated Pilot Examiners (DPE), which has impacted MATA's ability to schedule FAA checkrides in a timely manner. In some cases, our students are waiting two months or more after completing a course of flight training before they can be scheduled for a checkride with an FAA examiner. This has created the need for extra flights for the students to stay "primed" for their FAA checkrides, at extra cost to the students, as well as extra load for our flight instructors. They continue working with students who should have earned their certificate or rating and moved ahead to make room for new applicants to begin training. Congress recently directed the FAA to remedy this situation, but it will take time for such a large bureaucracy to effect real changes which will bring relief.

Abigail and **Ethan** are currently "in the queue" for their Private Pilot checkrides, and **Casey** for his Instrument-Airplane rating. *Please pray for our students and instructors as we navigate through this frustrating reality!*

MATA MAINTENANCE



A Deep-Dive Inspection



Last fall, MATA was surprisingly donated a 1975 Cessna 172M with an Air Plains 180hp Lycoming engine upgrade and Flint Aero tip tanks. Currently, this airplane is in the middle of its first MATA annual inspection. The team is performing preventative maintenance and repairs to make sure the aircraft is in airworthy condition for flight training. With an avionics upgrade and paint and interior work still planned for the future, MATA is excited to have N64383 as a welcome addition to its fleet.



Doug, Alex, Eddie, Casey, and Abigail inspecting and repairing N64383.