



MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

September 2025

360-435-8179 • www.mata-usa.org

AIR TRIP TO ETHNOS360 AVIATION

Compiled and written by MATA students.

Our flight from Washington State to Arizona to visit Ethnos360 Aviation was a welcome challenge and blessing in many ways.

The multi-leg, multi-state flight provided the opportunity to “exercise” the flight training we had already gained from the MATA pilot courses. Challenges we faced included flying in excessively high outside temperatures (up to 114 deg.!) and navigating through and over mountain ranges. We also were challenged with learning additional flight deck and engine management skills while avoiding instrument fixation over long legs of flight. Through Dary and Don’s instruction, we learned and grew in our flight skills over the course of the trip.

While at Ethnos360 Aviation, we learned more about their focus on planting churches, using aircraft as a tool to accomplish that goal. They showed great hospitality, even giving an opportunity for a flight in their Robinson R66 helicopter. This allowed us to see first-hand how aviation can benefit work on the mission field. Ethnos 360 Aviation exemplified professionalism and service - both to the Lord and to us.

This trip was full of hard work and fun, and it was a great team-building experience. *Thank you to all who supported this trip through prayer and financial support!*



Instructor Don with students Ken and Tio
Instructor Dary with Casey (left) and Zach (right)



WEDDING BELLS

We were all excited to attend the wedding of MATA student **Abigail McMillan** and alumnus **Vitaliy Nikishin** on August 30th. The couple will be transitioning, in the next month, back to Uganda where Vitaliy serves with Samaritan’s Purse.



THE NEW MATA ANNEX BUILDING FUNDS NEEDED

TRUSTING IN THE LORD’S PROVISION THROUGH YOU!

About 850 feet from the current MATA facility is what is now called “The MATA Annex.” Before COVID, MATA would use portions of this 8,000 sq. ft. building for summer camp or other activities. Post-COVID, the airport decided to sell the building, and through a series of God-ordained events MATA was able to purchase the building for well below market value.



God provided the building for MATA to expand into! Now we are trusting the Lord to provide \$500,000 to complete renovations.

Renovations needed are: connecting to sewer, new water line, HVAC, lighting, paint, exterior siding, flooring, security, parking lot pavement, and a lot of clean-up before occupancy. We praise the Lord for \$40,000 donated which covered new windows, doors, security, and cleanup. But we need to do so much before this building is ready for expansion into needed student classrooms and administration space, especially for receiving international students by 2026.

Would you pray with us and even donate, as the Lord leads, to help us increase our capability for expanding God’s Kingdom through training and equipping pilots for missionary service? To give online, please visit our website, click on the “DONATE” tab and “Building Fund” in the drop-down menu. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD: 2025 MINISTRY EVENTS

Sept. 17 – Oct. 4
October 10-11

Mission Trip – Papua New Guinea (see details on p. 2)

Missions Fest Seattle, Renton, WA

MATA staff will seek to mobilize at this annual mission conference. MATA will have a vendor booth, and staffers Don and Lisa Belfils will speak at the Friday teen-oriented sessions.

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 OCC shoeboxes this year. Please visit www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ to learn more.

November 18-25

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



Scan to visit
the MATA website!





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STUDENT REPORT

CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING ACCOMPLISHMENTS!



Ben Impola with instructor Bryan



Tio Tobing



Ken Huntsinger



Robyn Heineken



Don Belfils



Hannah Kirkman
with instructor Bryan

Initial Solo
Initial Solo

Instrument Rating
Instrument Rating

Tailwheel Endorsement

CFI
Certified Flight Instructor
CFI-I
Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument

Ben Impola 5/23/25

Hannah Kirkman 9/3/25

Ken Huntsinger 5/18/25

Tio Tobing 7/26/25

Ken Huntsinger 6/20/25

Robyn Heineken 4/27/25

Don Belfils 5/25/25

MATA MAINTENANCE TRIP-PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 4, 2025

MATA Director of Maintenance **Doug Nunziato** is returning to Papua New Guinea with students **Zach Kupser** and **Ken Huntsinger** to assist in the ministry of Samaritan Aviation (SA). There is currently a shortage of maintenance personnel on the mission field and SA is delighted to have a team from MATA come for the second consecutive year to assist in needed aircraft maintenance on their Cessna 206 amphibious aircraft. Samaritan



Aviation serves 700,000 people in the Sepik and Gulf provinces of Papua New Guinea, many who live days away from the nearest hospital. Their ministry is bringing to these remote community's not only healthcare, but the hope and love of Jesus. One SA representative stated that when their aircraft can't fly due to maintenance issues, this ministry is severely hindered. *Pray for safe travels for the team, unity, and that their work and service would be a blessing to the ministry of Samaritan Aviation.*

