

"A SPECIAL WORK AND PLACE"

by MATA student Zach Kupser

MATA MAINTENANCE TRIP TO ALASKA

Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters (FLAPS) is a ministry in Naknek, Alaska bringing the Gospel to surrounding villages. None of these villages are accessible by road, so airplanes are necessary for the year-round transporting of pastors, Vacation Bible School teams, and other missionaries. FLAPS has three aircraft for this ministry.

In February, MATA sent a team to Naknek to assist in the annual inspections and repairs of the FLAPS aircraft. This team consisted of Clayton Howie, Jeremy Crowell and his family, and me (Zach Kupser) and my family. It was a very productive trip, and the airplanes are once again ready for ministry use.

This MATA mission trip was especially exciting for my family and me. It was in Naknek back in 2022, while serving on the Vacation Bible School team with my wife Katy, that I first felt the Lord directing my steps towards mission aviation. We have a deep love for the people and ministry in Alaska. If the Lord wills it, I hope to serve there in the future as a missionary pilot. It was a blessing to



MATA team: (l-r) Zach; Clayton Howie; Katy Kupser; Jeremy, Lacey, and Malachi Crowell

be back in Naknek again, sharing this special place and ministry with my family. *Thank you for the support and prayers for MATA's Alaska Ministry program!*

For more information and videos, visit: www.mata-usa.org/alaskaministries



Zach and Jeremy with FLAPS missionary and MATA Alumni, Josh Fish

MATA ANNEX BUILDING FUND

WHAT? The Lord guided and provided for MATA to purchase the "MATA Annex," an 8,100-square-foot building just down the road from our current facility. We are now trusting the Lord to provide all the funding for the significant renovations needed to make this new facility operational for use.

Building permits are pending for the continued work and our current donations are \$150,000 of the \$500,000 needed to complete this project.



WHY? We have maximized the space in our current facility. Renovations of the MATA Annex will provide space for:

- receiving international students for flight training
- additional classrooms and offices
- hospitality for our MATA student families
- Bible studies and other ministry-related events.

WHO? We invite you to help us complete this project. *Would you pray that the Lord would provide for this work and would you give generously towards the needed funding? If you know others interested in investing in God's work, please contact us. We are grateful for your support and prayers for this endeavor!*

Call our office if you have any questions. Or to learn more and donate, please visit mata-usa.org/annex-building-project/. Contact MATA regarding stocks, bonds, and planned-giving donations.

Have you RSVPed for MATA's Annual Thank-You Luncheon yet?

Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 12:00pm – 2:30pm

Location:

Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center Program Center Building
20800 Marine Dr., Stanwood, WA 98292



scan QR code for map to Luncheon

OPEN HOUSE TO FOLLOW AT THE MATA FACILITY

19002 59th Dr. NE, Arlington (on the Arlington Municipal Airport)

Please call if questions or to **RSVP by April 13**
MATA Office: 360-435-8179

LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 MINISTRY EVENTS

April 18
April 24-25

MATA Annual Thank-You Luncheon (See details above on this page)

Christian Heritage Homeschool Conference, Everett, WA

MATA has been present at this conference for over 12 years to promote mission aviation and Mission Aviation Summer Camp to families in attendance.

July 26-31

Mission Aviation Summer Camp

Camper slots remain available for MATA's camp that introduces teens to the world of aviation and the use of mission aviation to reach the nations for Christ. Visit www.mata-usa.com/aviation-camp for information and an application.

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



Scan to visit the MATA website!



This contribution is made with the understanding that Mission Aviation Training Academy (MATA) has complete control and administration over the use of the donated funds. No goods or services were given or provided for this donation. 501(c)3 Tax ID: 91-1932500



P.O. Box 3655
19002 59th Dr. NE
Arlington, WA 98223

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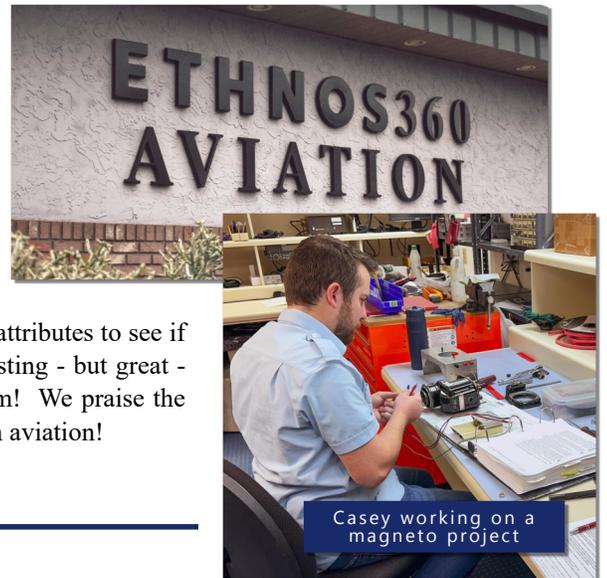
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STUDENT UPDATE

ETHNOS360 AVIATION CANDIDATE EVALUATION – ACCEPTED!

By MATA student intern – Casey Underwood

When my family and I arrived at the Ethnos360 Aviation base in McNeal, AZ in January for my maintenance candidate evaluation, I experienced a combination of nervousness and delight looking to the week ahead. I had spent years anticipating this moment and many years training to prepare my aviation skills for this evaluation. MATA equipped me with the experience I needed to move from a newly licensed mechanic to someone who was confident to move to this next phase of my journey to the mission field. My family’s time at Ethnos consisted of interviews, meals with staff and, for me, maintenance projects. These projects tested my knowledge, skills, and character attributes to see if they were aligned with how Ethnos operates as an organization. After an exhausting - but great - week, our family sat down with leadership, and they invited us to join their team! We praise the Lord and are excited to move forward in this Kingdom work of serving in mission aviation!



Casey working on a magneto project

MATA APPROVED FOR VA EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS!

MATA has been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a vocational pilot school. Veterans interested in training for mission aviation can apply their education benefits for flight training at MATA, including the Instrument-Airplane rating, Commercial Pilot certificate, Flight Instructor certificate, and Flight Instructor Instrument-Airplane rating. The VA education benefits may not be used for obtaining the Private Pilot certificate. Veterans interested in mission aviation can contact MATA for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR STAFF, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI

1. Pray that **MATA staff** would model Christ as we train, work with, and mentor our students preparing for the mission field. Visit mata-usa.org/staff/ for profiles or to donate towards staff ministry funds.
2. Pray for current and recently graduated students:
 - **Eddie** and **Ken** have completed the Certified Flight Instructor and Commercial Pilot course, respectively. They are preparing for March checkrides. After this, they will transition into the MATA Maintenance Department.
 - **Ethan** and **Zach**, who are enrolled in the Instrument Airplane course.
 - **Hannah** (Private Pilot certificate) and **Tio** (Commercial Pilot certificate with Instrument Airplane rating; Tailwheel endorsement), who both have finished their flight courses and are taking the next step toward the field in pursuing their Airframe & Powerplant mechanic certificate.
 - **Casey** (A&P maintenance intern) and his family will transition this summer from serving at MATA to next steps towards the field with Ethnos360 Aviation (see article this page).
3. Pray for alumnus **Gregorio Rodriguez** with wife Eily as they transition with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) to service in Mozambique, Africa



MAF Rodriguez Family
Gregorio & Eily