

Mission Aviation Training Academy
November 2000 Update



Dear Friends in the ministry,

Exciting things have been going on at MATA! We were privileged to have with us Pastor Jackson Senyonga and his wife Eve, for a few weeks in September, as Pastor Jackson continues to work towards his license. We hope to have opportunity to complete his training in November, time and weather allowing, if he is able to come back from Uganda for a week or so then. Pastor Jackson and Eve are such a blessing, humble servants in whom God has entrusted a mighty work, as their congregation of 20,000 members, in Kampala, continues to reach out and plant new churches. Over 75 new congregations have been started, and the vision is for 1,000 new churches... and our small part is to help with training national workers as pilots for an aviation support ministry. We want to proceed slowly and safely, and are praying for a C172 that could be used out of Entebbe for both training and short trips. We are also praying for a C206 for serious support flying in the future. My wife Lori and I have been invited to Uganda for July of next year, to spend the month in (prayerfully, hopefully) training in the C172 that God might provide, and sharing at the annual Bible Conference of the Christian Life churches, which last year had an attendance of over 50,000! Pray for this opportunity! The cost of procuring the C172 in Africa (probably out of South Africa) will run in the neighborhood of \$50,000.00, and we need not only the wisdom in selecting the right aircraft, but the funding to do it!

Russ and Rhonda Olsen are currently in Jamaica, helping a Christian School... they will be returning in December, and in the interim, they need our continued prayer support! Praise God for this missions-minded couple, who continue to seek the Lord's will and purpose in their lives and future!

We have a complex trainer! We took a step of faith and purchased a 1967 Mooney M20C out of Arizona; Brandon Penkoff (one of our students) and Pastor Mike picked it up and we immediately put it into the training mode! The morning after it arrived, Ben Springer (CFII) and Josh Harrington, an instrument student, accomplished his IFR cross-country, and Thane Weythman accompanied Pastor Crowell to Minnesota on a training flight/ministry trip just a couple of days later. It is IFR certified, and we are now able to do the full gamut of training through commercial and instrument ratings. On October 16, Josh Harrington earned his instrument rating in the new aircraft - congratulations, Josh! Brandon Penkoff and Thane Weythman used the faithful Cessna 150 on October 23 for their Private checkrides, so congratulations to both of them for this successful first step towards mission aviation! With payments and insurance, we now have a commitment of over \$2000 a month for aircraft fixed expenses alone, so we need your help and prayers even more. We see God's hand of blessing in this ministry, and we are ever so thankful for a growing body of regular supporters who see the necessity for this tool of aviation in spreading the Gospel.

We have a vehicle! Tim Johnson (MATA board member) told his son-in-law and daughter of our need, and they graciously donated a 1991 Ford Explorer. Tim drove the vehicle back up to Arlington for us, combining a bit of a visit with his grandson along the way. Thanks to the Lord and to this generous couple for providing for our need!

A new facet to our ministry is Pastor Mike's involvement with Bible School Extension courses, out of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis. It is exciting to have these courses available right at the same facility where MATA has its offices, at Atonement Free Lutheran Church. MATA students who would be interested in such courses can earn Bible School credits while here for aviation training! Pastor Mike taught a course entitled "How to Lead a Bible Study", a for-credit practical theology course, and Pastor Rick Lee of Atonement is teaching "Exodus" and "Evangelism and Discipleship",

for this semester, and Pastor Mike will be teaching a "Cults and Isms" class in January.

Pray for these MATA students:

Pastor Jackson Senyonga, Private Pilot Training, coming back in November for final prep and checkride, pray for good weather and time to concentrate on the finish-up!

Pastor Bob Legg, Private Pilot Training, in hiatus right now, pray for funds!

Brandon Penkoff, Private Pilot Checkride successfully completed, on into instrument training, pray for continued progress!

Thane Weythman, also a new private pilot, and now into instrument training, pray for his progress as well!

Alan Gilliland, coming about the 5th of November to finish up his instrument & commercial, from Naknek, AK; Alan is a police officer from Naknek that has been helping with the ministry of Pastors Tom Olsen and Henry Mohagen, pray for good weather and success on this "fast-track" finish!

Asher Montgomery, working on instrument/commercial, pray for continued progress & opportunities to finish up!

Paul Rowe, a CAP member working on instrument, pray for God's leading as he faces the challenges of a becoming a unit commander now in November!

Tim Dauber, instrument and commercial, pray for continued progress as he is very near his instrument checkride!

Tom Robertson, CFI applicant, pray for time and funds to finish up and opportunity to put the CFI skills to use with MATA upon completion!

Jeremy Crowell, working on commercial, instrument, and CFI - pray for time and funds to complete (before he goes off to Minneapolis for Bible School next fall, we want some work out of him as an instructor)!

Josh Harrington, a new instrument pilot, now into commercial, pray for continued progress!

Russ Olsen, currently in Jamaica on mission trip, then will be working on instrument upon return, pray for funds and timing!

Tim McKinney, instrument/commercial, pray for time, funds, and opportunity to move ahead towards his goal of mission aviation!

Patrick Sage, working on commercial, pray for time to complete and God's leading for the ministry!

Ian Garrish, instrument/commercial, pray for funds that this young man can follow God's leading!

God is so good, and we thank each of you who have felt lead of God to support this ministry for your faithful response.

PRAY ALSO - for an upcoming mission trip to Naknek involving some repairs to the commercial broadcast station (KAKN Christian Radio), and some electronics training for the mission team there... and of course some aviation training as well!
Projected dates - December 26 to ???

Thanks to a new corporate sponsor, Mr. Mark Schwarz of AirTec, Inc., (out of Boeing Field in Seattle) who has graciously offered to provide instrument repair to us as his part in our ministry!

Could you pray with us to retire the debt on our two aircraft? Without the \$1000.00 a month payments, we could significantly reduce the hourly rental rates on the aircraft... what a blessing that would be to our students!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!

Pastor Mike Crowell