

Mission Aviation Training Academy
October 2001 - Update

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The past quarter has been a blessed time of ministry! Our first "Mission Challenge" conference was held at Atonement in Arlington in July, the week after the airshow at Arlington Airport. It was a blessing especially to see the young men from the area that are thinking seriously about mission work! May God continue to lay upon the hearts of His people the need to reach into the world with the Gospel. That need is all the more evident as we reflect upon the events of September 11th, and the reality that the only way to truly stop terrorism is to change the hearts of potential terrorists!

Pastor Crowell spent the month of September in Naknek, AK, working with the mission there. It was a great time of direct ministry, as well as training opportunities for those who traveled to and from AK with him. What other flight school offers it's students cross-country training from Washington to Alaska? Brandon Penkoff, Jeremy Crowell, and Thane Weythman all received the cross-country experience, as well as the opportunity to try off-airport and truly short-field gravel-strip landings. Valuable training experience for future missionary aviators! Preaching, teaching, and ground schools (private and instrument) took up Pastor Crowell's time, as well as the flight instruction opportunities. All in all, a time of blessing!

Pray for our current students in MATA:

Brandon Penkoff - working on Instrument and Commercial
Josh Harrington - working on Instrument Instructor (congratulations for his CFI rating!)
Tom Robertson - working on Instrument Instructor (congratulations for his CFI and A&P ratings!)
Dary Finck - working on Private (congratulations for his 1st solo!)
Thane Weythman - working on Instrument and Commercial
Asher Montgomery - working on Instrument and Commercial
Russ Olsen - working on Instrument while serving in Naknek, with KAKN radio (with his wife, Rhonda)
Sandra Ries - working on Private
John Tyrrel - working on Private
Erik Jolly - working on Private
Tim Dauber - working on Commercial (congratulations for his instrument rating!)
Jeremy Crowell - working on Instrument and CFI (congratulations for his commercial and A&P ratings!)

Thane and Brandon are also starting their A&P program through Everett Community College in January, pray for them in this major commitment! We also have several inquiries about new starts, so pray as God continues to direct His people into training for ministry!

Pray also for our potential consolidation of facilities and the use of an OMF-160 Symphony as our new primary trainer, that God will lead and provide! We are thankful for the efforts of Josh and Tom as new instructors, as they have begun to take over some of the primary flight students. This allows them to build their time, as well as provide time for Pastor Crowell to concentrate on program development a bit more. In cooperation with Atonement church, we are thankful that MATA is now able to offer a full two-year program of Bible School instruction to our students desiring and needing that training! Praise God for His provision!

Our financial situation is still tight, this is now the second year full-time MATA director Pastor Crowell has received only about 1/4 salary; but God has provided, and we clearly sense His calling and direction in this ministry. We are so thankful for a number of regular supporters who have made the difference, as well as the special gifts from time to time. Just when the need is greatest, God provides!

In Him, *Pastor Mike Crowell, Executive Director*

OTHER ITEMS OF PRAISE AND PRAYER:

-Thanks for Paul Siken and Stu Kranick, who have revamped the website, mata-usa.org, and are providing wonderful technical support in that area!

-A special thanks to Pastor Tom Olsen of St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet, MN, who allowed Pastor Crowell and Lori to visit and have a wonderful time of fellowship... and a wonderful gift of support to the MATA ministry from the congregation!

-Thanks to the Naknek churches for their fellowship, and to Pastor Henry and Linda Mohagen, for allowing Pastor Crowell to fill in during their trip to the "lower 48", and their loving support!

-Thanks to Gordon Bakke, who has not only continued to donate his valuable time as our director of maintenance, but is now a board member of MATA! And, we thank also Lavon Bohling for his time on our board of directors. Lavon has felt lead to concentrate on his commitments to F.L.A.P.S., and has resigned from our board. We thank him for his service, and his continued prayerful support of MATA!

-Pray that God will allow the mechanic's team (Gordon Bakke, Jeremy Crowell, Myron Davis) that was to go to Africa, to go at some future date, when international tensions ease a bit, especially in predominately Muslim countries such as Niger!



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What DOES it cost to train a mission aviator?

An important question! Training is an expense that oftentimes we overlook... churches often understand and willingly support those already serving on mission fields, but I believe that we need to support those who are in training; going to Bible School, seminary, and training in mission aviation. The reality is that the sacrifice begins when training begins, not just upon "arriving" on the mission field. And, aviation training is expensive! MATA program fees, borne by the students, do not begin to cover the real cost of training; the aircraft, facilities, etc. Without the support of those outside our programs, we could not operate. We are grateful that many are beginning to appreciate what a struggle it is to become a mission aviator!

Example:

Private Pilot License - \$3500

Instrument Rating - \$2000 (not counting up to 20hrs free time that we give on simulators)

Time Building to Commercial Level - \$6000

Commercial License - \$3000

That commitment in training (approximately \$14,500) gets the student to the point where he can build time and begin training in mission aviation (add another \$10,000 to get to the experience level most mission agencies desire for new trainees). As you can see, it is expensive! Yet, there are many areas of our world in which the role of the mission plane is crucial to the ministry. Even in Alaska, part of the most advanced country in the world, many locations are absolutely dependent upon aviation, and ministry cannot even take place without it! That is why MATA is committed to this training, to provide full-time ministers of the Gospel able to go on wings that God has provided.

How can you help? First and foremost, PRAY! Then, be willing to GO, if God directs and calls you! And, GIVE in support of those who are called to go! You have been given a prayer list of MATA students in this update... would you consider sponsoring a student? To a person, every MATA student is committed to this ministry and are working to make it happen... would you consider coming alongside of them as coworkers for the Gospel? Monthly support, as well as one-time gifts, are all appreciated and needed. Donations of vehicles and equipment, which can be used or sold, are also helpful. God has richly blessed His American church, but not just for our own sakes! He has given us much so that we can help the world that needs so much. That is even more evident as we have seen and experienced first-hand the darkness of the Muslim world, which has laid claim to being the fastest growing religion in the world. Only as we reach people for Christ will we see an end to the misery that false religions cause in the world. Only as we are faithful with what God has entrusted to us, will we see the Gospel go forward! He has entrusted the Great Commission to us!

-Pastor Michael Crowell, Executive Director

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PRAYER AND COMMITMENT CARD:

I agree to remember the ministry of training mission aviators, and the ministry of missions both foreign and domestic, in my regular prayer life. I would like to partner with MATA to pray for _____ specifically, as a future mission aviator.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ PHONE: _____

I will also prayerfully consider directly supporting a MATA student as God leads and provides!