



MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

425-231-5855

www.mata-usa.org

MATAUSA



Operation Christmas Child

THREE YEARS AT MATA ... AND (LOTS OF) COUNTING

For the third year, MATA has volunteered to be the Arlington, Washington drop-off and Snohomish County central drop-off location for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child (OCC) ministry. This year, the team of MATA staff and volunteers worked together with OCC staff to count and load onto truck trailers over 12,300 shoeboxes!

But what does this number translate into?

OCC shoeboxes all make the long journey from U.S. locations to over 100 countries. Once they arrive, trained national pastors and community leaders host child-friendly outreach events to distribute the boxes, share the Gospel, and invite the kids to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program. So these 12,300 shoeboxes will reach over 12,300 kids with the potential for many kids finding salvation in Christ and impacting their culture for His Kingdom. So, we believe a "little" counting on our end is worth the eternal impact on the other.



Packing and counting (from left): Clayton Howie, Ken Engman, Abigail McMillan and Jim Nichols



Loading and (more) counting



Amy Nunziato, wife of MATA staffer Doug Nunziato and OCC Central Drop-Off Team Leader, counts cartons - containing up to 15 shoeboxes each.

YOUR GIFTS TO MATA MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2023!

*We celebrate the Lord's goodness
and provision through you!*

*Our desire is that every aspect of our
ministry would be honoring to Him.*

- Achieved **air agency certificate** as an FAA Part 141 provisional flight school.
- **Flight training:** 10 students trained in preparation for mission aviation ministry.
- **Steady aircraft maintenance** training for students on our current fleet including two donated and one purchased aircraft.
- Staff engaged in **over 40 ministry events** (presentations at mission conferences, churches, schools, plus mission trips, hosting tours, etc.).
- **Six staff families** completed training to raise support for their MATA ministry.
- Many **internal compliance documents** created and updated to stay current and above reproach with state and federal laws.
- **Countless hours** on facility and computer security to protect MATA's assets along with print, website, and social media marketing and video production to promote the ministry of MATA.

To support our staff or make a gift to the General Fund, please visit www.mata-usa.org, click "DONATE" tab

*Thank
You!*

Merry Christmas! from the MATA Board of Directors



(from left) Chairman Scott Quist, Gary Elliott, Jeff Lowe, Executive Director Dary Finck, Joe Hopkins, Jeremy Crowell, Val Stevens, not pictured Board Secretary Cal Willard.

To learn more about the Board, please visit the MATA website under "About Us."

Ministry Events

Check FB and our website for the latest updates and schedules.



January 15, 2024

Mission Aviation Summer Camp Applications Available

For those of you who have been waiting, applications come on-line Jan. 15th for MATA's 2024 summer camp. Visit www.mata-usa.org and click on "Activities" to find the summer camp webpage link.

February 2024

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.

THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE TEAM

Alex Denton has joined the MATA team bringing with him years of experience working at Boeing and a desire to serve the Lord in his retirement years. He will fill the role of Facility Manager. Alex is married to Mary and is a hands-on guy, whose hobbies include working on steam engines, trains, and boats.





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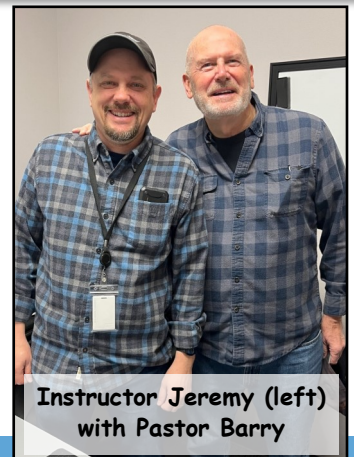
STUDENT & FLIGHT NEWS



Instructor Don with Casey



Instructors (from left) Gary, Don, and Vic with Jed as he received his certificate of completion.



Instructor Jeremy (left) with Pastor Barry

PART 141 is in FULL SWING

We are excited for the progress our students are making under our FAA-approved flight training curriculum. We celebrated **Casey Underwood** becoming our first Part 141 private pilot on September 19th. **Jedidiah Williams** completed the private pilot course curriculum on November 29th and is preparing for his checkride. **Zach Kupser** is nearing the end of his private pilot coursework. We are also excited for MATA's newest instructor **Jeremy Crowell** to build much needed instrument instruction time with our newest Part 141 student, local pastor **Barry Crane**, who has been a friend of MATA for many years. *Please pray for these students as they work hard to move forward with their training, and the ones who are in the "pipeline" to come to MATA in the next year. We trust God will direct to our program all whom He wants us to train and equip for mission aviation service.*



Zach



MAINTENANCE TEAMWORK LEADS TO PROGRAM PROGRESS

These pictures represent some of the hard work that has been done on our newest aircraft in the fleet, N5180E (1959 Cessna 180B). From installing new fuel bladders to repairing brake lines and flaps, much work has been done and more is yet to be done to ensure this aircraft is "fit" for training MATA flight students. The MATA maintenance team of **Doug Nunziato**, **Vitaliy Nikishin**, **Casey Underwood**, **Abigail McMillan** - as well as Executive Director **Dary Finck** and instructor **Jeremy Crowell** - all work together troubleshooting and repairing issues along with keeping regular watch on aircraft inspection intervals (and of course, the paperwork) to ensure MATA aircraft are all in airworthy condition.