

Mission Aviation Training Academy

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W W W . M A T A - U S A . O R G

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 2

Trust and obey
for there is no
other way to be
happy in Jesus,
but to trust and
obey

WHO SAYS YOU'RE TOO OLD?

At age 85, Caleb told Joshua he was as strong as the day Moses had sent them on a reconnaissance mission 45 years earlier, and that he was now ready to go claim the promised inheritance (Josh. 14:6-15). John Lewis is not 85, and it hasn't been 45 years since he received marching orders, but there are parallels to these Bible events. In 2002 John began flight training with MATA at a mature age, not understanding how the Lord



John & Margaret

would use him or his pilot experience. John earned his Private Pilot license, and over the next decade remained involved with MATA, increasing his flight time and experience as he could make funds available. In 2010, John joined the MATA team serving at Kako Retreat Center in

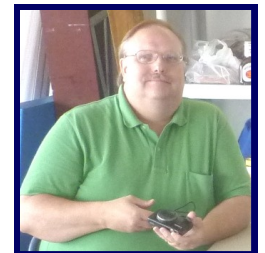
western Alaska as a handyman and his wife Margaret helped in the kitchen and as a counselor. They both had an instant affinity for the Alaskan people, and sensed God's direction to be in long-term ministry there. Back home their vision clarified for beginning the ministry described on their website <http://servingoursaviour.com/>. Importantly, villagers have asked Lewises to come and help them, expressing trust and acceptance, which doesn't happen often with outsiders. In August during their third summer at Bible camp, John as Camp Director and Margaret as Head Cook, they were invited by Samaritan's Purse, (Franklin Graham's international relief organization) to serve in youth ministry in Marshall, Alaska, the very village John and Margaret had chosen for their Alaska home! Samaritan's Purse will provide them a new parsonage in Marshall with utilities, but John and Margaret must supply their other needs including a snow machine for local winter transportation and a 4-wheel ATV for summer. They plan to leave as soon as they have the necessary support, and gifts have been coming in to MATA for



John and James

them. John and Margaret were called to prepare for ministry a decade ago, and now faithfully stand looking into their "promised inheritance." **Will you help send them?**

Introducing Clayton Howie



At the Arlington Fly-in back in July a gentleman dropped by MATA's display and asked if he could serve as a volunteer to help us with whatever he could. Clayton Howie previously served with Campus Crusade, but now works nights and was looking for some local ministry where he could serve during the day. Well, we occasionally have offers to help which don't develop into much. Clayton, however, has been a huge blessing, coming in faithfully several days a week and doing, literally, whatever needs to be done, including website maintenance, photography, and washing the belly of the aircraft. He was a tremendous help in making the move to the new facility - packing and unpacking, getting things organized, set up, and put in place. Thanks Clayton!

We Moved! 19002 59th Dr NE

Our July newsletter announced we would move to a new hangar in August, and included photos of the exterior and a large, vacant interior. Office and classroom spaces were subsequently framed, enclosed, and finished out, with very generous assistance of new landlord

Barbara Johnson. We moved in the last week in July. Our new MATA home was dedicated on August 1st to God's glory and in honor of Barbara's deceased husband Stephen, himself a pilot. On September 8th we held an open house for MATA supporters in the local area to come and see God's provision. The photos show how we have settled in at our new location, but those of you in the local area should come by and see for yourselves.



Dedication of new hangar



Gathering for morning devotions in the new front office

Find us on
Facebook



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Training Pilots for Missions

Return Service Requested



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Email: mata.usa@gmail.com

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PERMIT No. 383

New Student Ratings



Joel and Gary comparing wings!

Joel Johnson - Private Pilot

April Erhardt - Instrument Flight Instructor

Tim Reed - High Performance and Complex Airplane endorsements

Jonathan Miller - Flight Instructor certificate (at a school in California); Instrument Flight Instructor (MATA)

N71333 Home Again

MATA's Cessna 182 returned from Alaska August 4th after flying 200 hours for Bible camp. With Kako's planes under repair, our N71333 did most of the flying. Back home, Dary and Gordon made needed repairs during the annual inspection. The Alaska ministry costs for fuel, parts, and repairs came to about \$25,000.



Dary and Gordon annual N71333

on. So as we celebrate our 14th birthday, we are thankful to the Lord for the high percentage of our graduates who are serving Him as missionary pilots or as pilots with a Christian testimony and witness for Jesus, whether they fly small single-engine airplanes or airline jets. We continue to see our graduates go into ministry, and we are thrilled that John and Margaret Lewis are able to answer a "North to Alaska" call. There are a lot of spiritual battles going on in the villages that will test them, so we need to pray much for them. Also, winters are harsh, down to -40° F or colder, with several feet of snow, and even the mighty Yukon River covered with ice three to four feet deep.

Aviation Summer Camp

We had a great group of 12 campers the last week of July. April Erhardt was home from Alaska for the summer and instructed six of the campers, while Gary Elliott worked with the other six. Allen Koopman took a week's vacation from the UW Hospital to teach the ground school lessons again this year. Kari Brizendine, a camper from our '09 group, helped Stacie Elliott with food preparation. Unfortunately we couldn't fly the cross-country trips the last day due to low cloud cover and poor visibility, but everyone seemed to enjoy the Boeing "Future of Flight" museum and assembly plant tour to cap off the week..

Mission Fest Seattle

If you live in the Puget Sound region, mark your calendars and plan to come to Missions Fest Seattle October 12 & 13 at Westminster Chapel in Bellevue. The purpose of Missions Fest Seattle is "to glorify God by raising the awareness of mission activity within Christ's body of believers and by uniting and empowering members of local congregations to work together in obedience to the Great Commission." MATA will have an exhibit table, and present two seminars and a youth workshop. Check the details at :

<http://missionsfestseattle.org/>.

Director's Corner



Gordon and Jonathan recently ferried a Piper Cherokee from AK

MATA was founded on October 19, 1998 by Pastor Mike Crowell after the Lord directed him to practically apply his seminary doctoral thesis on mission aviation. Although on July 27, 2005 Pastor Mike took off on an earthly flight and ended the journey "present with the Lord," the MATA ministry he began continues

Thankfully they will have a warm house, sharing a hot-water heating system with the adjacent church and pastor's house. The boiler is fired by driftwood pulled from the river when it is in flood stage. Yes, this environment is quite different from our MATA grad Amos Collins, who serves as a missionary pilot in the South Pacific, where a tank top, shorts, and flip-flops are sufficient year-around attire. Amos' flying is very different as well. He pilots a Beechcraft Queen Air, a twin-engine piston airplane. All his flights are over open ocean, going hundreds of miles to little islands that are just a dot on the map. Amos and Heidi need our prayers as the spiritual battle is great there too.

Long-time MATA board member Emeritus, Rob Marvin, age 92, is moving from Kalispell, Montana to live with a son in the Washington D.C. area. He figures it is time to stop flying and is donating his 150-horsepower Cessna 152 to MATA. We are **very thankful** for this gift and are **very thankful for all the gifts we receive**. May God bless you each one.

Gordon Bakke
Executive Director



Rob handing over the keys to Gordon