

MATA

MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY



425-231-5855

www.mata-usa.org

MATAUSA



“The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped...”

- Psalm 28:7

As MATA operations, student progress, and you—our faithful supporters—have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus, we remember that God is our ultimate Helper, His plans are never thwarted, and He will accomplish all He has set out to do in accordance with His perfect and holy will (Matt 6:10). As we pray for you, remembering your continued generosity toward us, would you pray for us, our students, and alumni on the field, and for all our families that God would sustain our health and use each of us during these days to be the Light of hope and peace in the prevailing darkness and anxiety.

*Yours in Christ,
the MATA Staff*

UPDATE ON ALASKA MINISTRY & TRAINING



Kako Retreat Center, Alaska



We were excited and had planned for the summer trips to Alaska. Students’ skill levels had them ready to step into the training and ministry environment of Alaska. Then with the virus, the restrictions on gatherings started happening which affected the Alaskan Bible camps that are so critical to reaching the native Alaskan peoples with the Gospel. **Please pray for camps (like Kako Retreat Center), camp workers, and the many native American kids and families unable to go to camp. We ask that the eternal Gospel would still find its way into the remote villages and that hearts would be changed despite the earthly restrictions all are under now.**

MATA operations in Alaska have been postponed but we remain on “standby,” ready to go when the doors open up again. With this in mind, would you still plan to join us in supporting MATA’s “Mission Alaska” endeavor at our annual fundraiser...

Mission Alaska

Annual Fundraising Dinner • Saturday, June 6, 2020

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH • 6905 172ND STREET NE, ARLINGTON, WA 98223

The Alaska Ministry Fund supports student flight training and mentoring in the context of real-life ministry work in Alaska. If unable to attend the dinner, would you consider giving at: www.mata-usa.org/donate/. **Thank you!**

(more details to come...)

Meet Hope ...

As the MATA Board of Directors explores the possibility of a “MATA North” location in Alaska, we have the opportunity to put this idea to the test welcoming a new MATA student, **Hope Swanson**. Hope lives in Port Alsworth, Alaska and is a fully supported missionary serving in the discipleship program at Tanalian Bible Camp (TBC). Hope is excited to learn to fly “for God’s purposes” as it will “open up more opportunities for me to travel to villages and build relationships while growing the relationships I already have formed.” Hope will be trained in this “pilot program” by MATA members Scott Quist and Jeremy Crowell in Alaska. **Please pray for Hope and MATA in this exciting new venture!**



Hope (left) with TBC student, Andrea

Ministry Events

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



All MATA ministry events **have been cancelled** until further notice. We will keep you posted on future activities as the virus restrictions are lifted.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT BEN BLACKLOCK

The average is 7-10 years from the first training flight to landing on the field for a missionary pilot... and we are excited to report that **Ben Blacklock** accomplished this in just over 7 years! He is currently preparing to start training with **Samaritan’s Purse (SP)** this April. The final destination is Liberia by May of this year.

Ben started his flight training at MATA in March of 2013. He soloed in just 11 days and achieved all his ratings through his Commercial Pilot Certificate in less than a year. He built flight time flying for a fish camp in Canada (where he is from) and subsequently achieved his Multi-Engine Rating at MATA. Ben also flew in Papua New Guinea for a commercial operator to build twin and turbine engine time. Now, with over 3,000 hours of flight in various types of aircraft, he is more than well prepared to serve in the work of mission aviation on the front lines.

Please pray for Ben as he journeys forward with SP and transitions to Liberia!



“MATA was a great experience that taught me the importance of pursuing a goal with diligence.” - Ben

Aviation Summer Camp for TEENS

Aviation Summer Camp is still in the works!

JULY 19TH-24TH · TEENS 14-18 YEARS OLD

For an application and more information:

www.mata-usa.org/summer-aviation-camp/

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STUDENT NEWS

Instrument Rating



Justin, 12/13/19
(with Instructor Vic)

Commercial Pilot



Chad, 12/13/19
(with Examiner Neal)

MATA student Chad DeVlieger (“the flier” in Dutch) has lived up to his name. Along with being a family man, first-responder firefighter, and helping with his father’s business, he continues to amass aviation skills and ratings. In addition to his Commercial Pilot Certificate, he also earned his **Tailwheel Endorsement** on January 20th. Not stopping there, he worked to earn his **Seaplane Rating** on February 19th. For this rating, Chad had the treat of flying the floatplane with instructor and **MATA Alumna Amanda Grimwood**, who is building time and experience herself in preparation for the field. Chad has the goal of serving part-time at MATA and in Alaska ministries. Once retired from the Fire Department, he hopes to move into a full-time position.



Aviation Exams:

Written, Oral, and Practical(ly) Speaking

MATA students train via specifically designed coursework to build and develop the skills necessary to prepare them to be missionary pilots. This coursework also prepares them to take the required FAA written, oral, and practical exams to achieve their Private and Commercial Pilot Certificates, Instrument Rating, Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) License, plus other more advanced ratings and certificates.

This three-step process begins by taking a computerized and proctored **written exam** after much study on the student’s part. When a passing grade is achieved, the student then prepares with his instructor for the oral and practical exams given by an FAA Designated Examiner. The **oral exam** can last anywhere from 1 hour to 4 hours, based on the rating. After surviving this, then the student pre-flights the airplane and departs with the examiner for the **practical exam** (a.k.a. checkride), striving to demonstrate all the flight skills needed for that particular rating. The “O&P exams” are challenging as Justin and Chad (pictured above) can attest to, and passing them is no small thing. This is why at MATA we celebrate every rating achieved, because it is not only a great accomplishment, but it also means one major step closer to serving the Lord in full-time mission aviation work for that student.



Successful Written Exam Passes!

(L-R) Ella Bookman, Powerplant portion of mechanic rating; Matthew Lynch (with wife Kylie), Commercial Pilot; Nathan Harmer, Commercial Pilot.

Thankful for N300HP!

After 124 hours of flight training and 6 tailwheel endorsements, plus significant maintenance training accomplished, N300HP (a Cessna A185F) was returned to its owners in March.



We are so grateful to John and Paul Beiter for the use of this aircraft in training future missionary pilot-mechanics!