

# Howie Hi-Lites

December 1, 2022

*Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! (Psalm 96:3)*



## Jesus is The Greatest News Ever Announced!

We are very excited to serve our Lord in missions. We have this amazing privilege to bring the love, hope, and healing of **Jesus** to a world in need. Let's redouble our efforts while we still can to tell others how they, too, can have an intimate and personal relationship with **God Himself**, through Jesus, for now and all of eternity! They, too, can be plugged into His Holy Spirit and experience the awesome benefits of His fruit(s). When we exhibit this fruit in our lives, expect that others will crave what we have!

## MATA Alumni Help Celebrate New Mission Aviation Facility in Palau

President Whipps of Palau (lower left photo, standing on right) joined the PMA team and other government dignitaries to celebrate the Grand Opening of a new hangar for Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA). Ambassadors from the United States, Japan, and Australia were also part of the event which included prayer and a ribbon cutting. For the first time ever, the entire PMA fleet (photo on right) was at one location. PMA serves the nations of Micronesia, Palau, and the Philippines, proclaiming the Gospel, flying medical evacuations & sea searches, and doing ministry for outlying and isolated islands. MATA currently has **four alumni pilots** who are working full time to help PMA with operations (see below photos).



New PMA Hangar with the PMA Aircraft Fleet



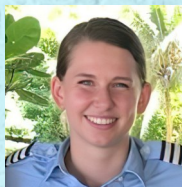
Palau President



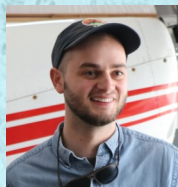
Amos Collins



Brock Welge



Melody Coleman



Justin Vaughan



## 12,000+ Shoeboxes Shipped!

Millions of children around the world will be presented the Gospel this Christmas through Operation Christmas Child (OCC). The love of many area churches was overflowing as we experienced the joy this past week of having church after church drop off their shoebox gifts here at MATA to package up into cartons for shipping to Samaritan's Purse for processing. We ended up filling two and a half 28' containers!

## Praise:

- \* We praise God for an excellent area-wide mission conference early in November. Please see the highlights on the reverse of this letter.
- \* Praise God for this fall season and for the stamina he has been providing for us as we have been serving many long weeks and weekends involved with ministry activities.
- \* Praise God for the great group of volunteers who helped us during National Collection Week for OCC. Also, for the dry weather during the day we loaded the truck trailers! The forecast had been for rain.

**Prayer:** Please continue to pray that God will call more laborers to be involved in Mission Aviation and to bring the students to us that He desires to be trained at MATA.

Please continue to pray for the Eygabroad family to receive a quick and favorable response to their petition to bring their adopted daughter into the United States.

Please continue to pray for all the MATA alumni serving him around the world to be encouraged and strengthened in the ministries to which God has called them.

Please pray for wisdom for us concerning care for Becky's dad who is living with us.

*Thank You!*



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## God-Sized Highlights from Mission Fest Seattle 2022



The theme for the conference was Persecution, Prayer and Courage. All those in attendance were encouraged to pick a country where it is dangerous to be a Christian and commit to pray for that nation for a year. 360 million Christians are being persecuted. (That is equivalent to the population of Los Angeles multiplied 85 times.)

Prayer books were distributed with information about the 50 most dangerous nations to be a Christian. For many years, North Korea was listed on top as the most dangerous nation, but now, Afghanistan is at the top of the list. It was revealed that anyone who is a Christian living in Afghanistan is now a “secret believer”. In the event they ever admit that they are a Christian, they will be cast out of their family and will likely be executed for their “infidel” beliefs. Many will become victims of so-called “honor killings”, even by their own family members.

I (Clayton) was unable to pick just one nation, so I have committed to pray for all 50 on the list. One for each week. I accepted a rubber barbed-wire wristband to help remind me to pray.



One bright highlight was hearing about how God has been working in the country of **Iran** (#9 on the World Watch List)

This photo is of Mark, who was manning a booth across from us. He grew up as a Muslim in Iran. His country has gone from only a handful of Christians to more than 10 Million today! He has written two

books and now leads a Christian broadcast ministry with several TV and radio stations available to people in Iran. He shared several persecution stories with me verbally. One of his workers gave a Bible to the daughter of the Ayatollah Khamenei. She took it, but not to read it. She stored it under her bed, but it stayed on her mind and she could not sleep for many nights. Of course, she decided that she should read it, and ultimately came to know Jesus!



This photo is of Paul Estabrooks, who has been a leader for the ministry of “Open Doors” for a few decades now. Here are his stories of Iran.

Two Iranian high school girls bravely decided to give away Holy Bibles in the Farsi language after their taxi rides to and from school. In Iran, the taxi service is similar to what we would consider a bus. When exiting the taxi, these girls would

tell the other passengers that they happened to have a couple of Bibles in their backpacks to give away, and would they like one? In the three years they did this, only ONE person refused. They ended up giving away more than twenty thousand Bibles!

Just a few weeks ago, you may have seen on the news the uprising protests of Iranian citizens against their government. The military was then given orders to “shoot to kill” those protesting. However, they weren’t always successful, so many citizens were taken to the hospitals to patch their wounds and would then be sent to prison.

A group of Christian doctors and nurses decided that they would open their homes, then work to bring the wounded to their own residences to be treated instead of having to go to a hospital. One of the doctors then went to a pharmacy to order supplies. The pharmacist exclaimed in wonder, asking why one doctor would be ordering enough supplies for a whole hospital! The doctor told him that because of their love for Jesus they were showing love for their neighbors. When the pharmacist heard this, he replied that he had been looking for this kind of love for years. He then told the doctor that he would send his own truck, and there would be no charge for the supplies. Also, he promised to continue sending trucks of supplies at no cost for as long as they needed them!

Coach Joe Kennedy created a video which was presented just for us attending Mission Fest. You may recall that he was fired from his job as a football coach in Bremerton, WA, for praying on public property for 15 seconds immediately after his games. He felt led by God to fight for religious freedom and went to court after court who ruled against him in favor of separation of church and state. He endured persecution in many ways. However, the U.S. Supreme court upheld religious freedom and has given us all the ability to fearlessly pray in public—speech that harms no one.



Coach Joe gave us words of encouragement to be courageous and stand up for our faith, God, and freedom, which will in turn increase proclamations in our nation about a good God and the Gos-



**If** God’s blessings in the United States are **removed**? One seminar provided alarmist warnings that we as a church in the United States might expect in the near future, based on other countries that have already gradually lost their religious freedoms. Christians need to be prepared.

- Christian beliefs and the Bible may be ruled to be “hate speech” and “bigotry”, which would bring the full force of the government and law to regulate us and our activities, especially in Christian education.
- A fundamental reorganization might occur as individual Christians and organizations may lose any tax exempt protections. This might likely result in excess fees and taxes.
- Government officials may be sent to churches to take names, social security numbers, and other information of those who come to attend to increase monitoring, fees, and taxation. However, this will purify and result in much smaller churches.
- Christians may go from being tolerated to hated to executed.
- Are we willing to firmly understand what we believe, be salt and light, and sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel whatever the cost? Are we prepared to fight and defend God and the Bible?

An Ethiopian pastor asked that our seminar speaker give a message to Christians in the west. The believers in his village of 22,000 people feared that they would lose their freedoms when a government turnover occurred. The government said that there would be no changes, but two years later, a convoy of military soldiers came, and they knew where all the Christians lived. The soldiers confiscated all the Bibles in the entire village. This pastor pleads for us that we all *immediately find a hiding place for a Bible*. Can this happen in America? Yes, the government can be given power to control the internet, search our homes, and confiscate cell phones and digital copies of our Bibles. Raids can happen. Christians, be ready.



In China, a very prominent and capable doctor, who was head over a large department in a hospital, was told to stop talking about and loving Jesus so much. She replied she couldn’t stop loving Jesus. This resulted in her being demoted to full time janitor. However, she believed in God’s call. With great joy, when she did her cleaning, she took the rag (calling it the Word of God) and applied the water (calling it the Holy Spirit) making her hospital the cleanest in the country! With every toilet she cleaned, she prayed for the next person that sat on it to be touched by God. She now practices joyful obedience, and God gives her satisfaction for His calling to her.