

February 22, 2026

Training and equipping evangelical Christian pilots for missionary service.



Teen camper Milo (center) controlling the aircraft while guided by flight instructor Bryan.

## Mission Aviation Summer Camp (Featured in AOPA)

This year's camp dates are July 26-31, 2026. The purpose of our camp is to introduce teens (14-18 years old) to: the discipline and technical academics of flight training, the challenges of world evangelization in remote areas of the world, and aviation as a support ministry in missions work. We are currently accepting applications through the MATA website <https://mata-usa.org/aviation-camp/>. **Apply soon! The camp is usually filled before the end of April.**



Earlier this month, MATA's camp was included within a featured **AOPA** article on the online news page of AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association). AOPA is the world's largest aviation community with more than 300,000 active members. They provide pilots and aviation enthusiasts with advocacy, education, and resources, informing a readership of about 400,000 people. Article link: <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2026/february/04/missionary-aviation-groups-offer-youth-summer-camps>.

## Clayton Serves with MATA's Alaska Ministry

After 13 years of putting together video presentations from the photos & clips brought back by MATA's Alaska ministry teams, I (Clayton) was invited for my first trip to Alaska to come along and be on location in the remote village of Naknek, Alaska. This community is located at the top of the Aleutian Peninsula, about 300 miles southwest of Anchorage. My primary role was to learn, document, and obtain photos and videos concerning the Christian ministries to locals and the more than 15,000 mostly foreign workers who come from around the world to fish for salmon. The waters in and around Bristol Bay make up the largest salmon fishery in the world where more than 80% of the Alaskan salmon harvest comes from. I was able to record several interviews from key ministry leaders involved with on-site outreaches to foreigners, the radio outreach to nearby isolated villages, and the aviation ministry to remote locations through Vacation Bible Schools and Bible Camps. (Expect a video before May 1st.)



Clayton all bundled up for 0°F temps, and assisting with simple airplane tasks.

## God Answered YOUR Prayers About the GI Bill®

On January 22, 2026, MATA received approval of our flight training program from the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC), which is the State Approving Agency (SAA) for Veterans' Education and Training in the state of Washington. On February 2, 2026, MATA received the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) acceptance of the WSAC/SAA's approval to advertise or enroll students in the program.

VA approval of our flight training program allows eligible veterans the opportunity to utilize GI Bill® education benefits, under Title 38 USC, for flight training. Our approved courses are Instrument Rating – Airplane, Commercial Pilot Certificate – ASEL, Flight Instructor Certificate – ASE, and Flight Instructor Instrument – Airplane.

### Praises & Prayer Requests:

- Praise:** Mission Connexion in Portland, Oregon during January was successful.
- Praise:** Our presentations as speakers over three separate chapel sessions to pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> graders at the Arlington Christian School on February 18<sup>th</sup> were very well received with attentive student interactions.
- Praise:** Missions Fest Seattle has a location for 2026! Eastside Church in Bothell, October 16-17.
- Praise:** We especially praise God for YOU, our partners who provide the prayer support needed to operate!
- Please Pray:** For logistics needed to expand operations, classrooms, and office space at the MATA Annex.
- Please Pray:** For preparations for our annual Thank You Luncheon, scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Please Pray:** For our grandchildren to be given discernment for the truth and that their time participating in AWANA will strengthen and inspire their faith in Jesus.
- Please Pray:** For good weather for MATA operations and good health for all of us as staff.

**We thank you immensely for all your prayers. Please let us know how we can pray for you too. Your needs are important to us.**



Clayton + Becky