

MATA Alumni - Vitaliy & Abigail Nikishin Now Serving as the Hands & Feet of Jesus in Uganda

Thank you for being a part of our team making a difference in many thousands of lives around the world through aviation. MATA Alumni and newlyweds, Vitaliy & Abigail Nikishin, have been settling into their new home and ministry in Entebbe, Uganda. (This is the same location made famous by events and movies produced about the dramatic and successful Entebbe Raid which occurred in 1976. Commandos from Israel rescued 102 Jewish people who had been hijacked, kidnapped, and held hostage at the airport. Airport buildings still have bullet hole scars to this day.) Both Vitaliy and Abigail gained much experience in flight and aircraft maintenance training at MATA to serve our Lord as missionaries in aviation. The Nikishins are now the fifth and sixth persons trained at MATA that God has called to serve specifically with Samaritan's Purse (S.P.) Aviation Operations in Africa.



Abigail & Vitaliy



The Nikishins Gated House near Lake Victoria

Samaritan's Purse is one of the largest humanitarian agencies in the world and is headed by Franklin Graham. S.P. is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, and poverty. Their mission is to follow Christ's command to help those in need, sharing God's love and the Gospel in Jesus' name. The Nikishins have been busy with cultural and orientation training. The leadership of Samaritan's Purse in Africa have informed us that Vitaliy is doing excellent work in repairing aircraft which are critically needed to bring cargo, food, and supplies to tens of thousands of needy refugees in African nations. Vitaliy also assists in aircraft inspections for S.P. airplanes located in neighboring countries. Both Vitaliy & Abigail thank you for your prayers resulting in safe travels, good health, and peace & confidence to follow God's calling through all their life changes over the past few months.



S.P. Base of Operations at Entebbe Airport



S.P. Feeding and Helping Needy Refugees in Africa

A Samaritan's Purse Pilot Reports About His Recent Hijacking Incident

A Samaritan's Purse plane flown by pilot Jim Streit was hijacked over Africa by a masked gunman. He pointed a gun in Jim's face and demanded that he fly him to the country of Chad or he would kill him. Jim was now faced with a choice—either let fear take over or trust Jesus with his life. The Lord brought Scriptures to Jim's mind and reminded him that there is power in the Name of Jesus. Link here to watch & listen to Jim on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51OfdmMH6W8>



(For illustration purposes only)



This is the S.P. Caravan Hijacked

Praises & Prayer Requests:

Praise: The four school tours of MATA this past month were successfully completed. I was able to explain the Gospel to several dozen more children and their chaperones.

Praise: Two students were enrolled last week - one for Private, another for Flight Instructor, certifications.

Praise: I recently passed my biannual Pilot Flight Review and am current to fly and to carry passengers.

Praise: We especially praise God for YOU, our partners who provide the prayer support needed to operate.

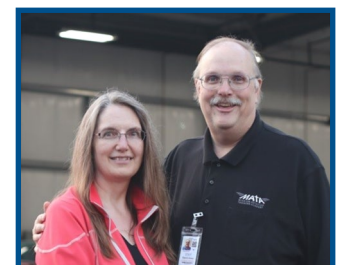
Please Pray: For logistics needed to expand operations, classrooms, and office space at the MATA Annex.

Please Pray: That many more individuals will be called to train at MATA to become missionary pilots.

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 to enable flight operations and for 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 + Beckv