



SPRING 2024

FLIGHTLINE

A PUBLICATION OF AGAPE FLIGHTS

Delivering LOVE & HOPE to the nations of the Caribbean

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BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY
DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

JOHN 13:35

REFLECTIONS IN GRACE: 45 YEARS OF GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION AT AGAPE FLIGHTS

This year, we are proud to celebrate 45 years of service, bringing help, hope, and love to missionaries across Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and the Bahamas. For decades, Agape Flights has been a vital lifeline, not only delivering essential supplies and mail but also providing the reassurance that missionaries are never alone in the challenging work they do.

The story of Agape Flights began in 1980 when Keith and Clara Starkey experienced a calling they could not ignore. Clara vividly recalls how they were led to purchase an aircraft to fly supplies into Haiti. "God laid it on our hearts," she said. With hearts full of love for God and a deep desire to serve others, the Starkeys took a leap of faith, starting a ministry that would touch the lives of thousands. They chose the name "Agape," derived from the Greek word for unconditional love—the kind of love they saw in Christ and wanted to share through their mission.

On November 15, 1980, Agape Flights took off for the first time. A small Cessna 411 departed from Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, bound for Cap Haitien, Haiti. The flight itself was modest, carrying emergency supplies and mail for about 25 missionary families. But that first flight marked the beginning of something much bigger, something that would grow far beyond the Starkeys' initial vision. Fast forward 45 years, and Agape Flights now serves over 300



missionary families across the Caribbean, helping them stay connected and supported in their vital work.

What makes Agape Flights special is that we're about more than just delivering supplies. We focus on building relationships and offering a personal touch. For missionaries who are far from home, Agape Flights becomes their "home address," ensuring they receive not only what they need but also comforting reminders of home—whether it's a letter from family, a package of necessities, or even a surprise treat. When disaster strikes, Agape Flights is there to respond quickly, rushing relief supplies to help those in need, no matter the emergency.

Though Keith and Clara have both passed away, their vision and faith continue to guide us here at Agape Flights. The love, commitment, and selflessness they poured into this ministry are felt every day by the staff, volunteers, and missionaries we serve. Their legacy lives on in the relationships they built, the countless lives touched, and the ongoing work that continues to this day.

As we celebrate 45 years of ministry, we look forward to the future with excitement and anticipation. We are eager to grow and expand, explore new ways to serve missionaries, and continue building lasting relationships. We trust that God will guide us as we seek to meet the ever-changing needs of the missionary community. What began with the faith and love of two people has blossomed into a thriving ministry, and the Agape family—comprising those who support, pray for, and work alongside us—has never been stronger.

FROM THE CEO



Allen Speer CEO

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE CEO

Think about your typical morning. If you are like me, after you roll out of bed, it probably isn't long before you're staring into a mirror. Most days your hair looks like an explosion from a mattress factory, your face resembles one of the Seven Dwarfs, and your breath is . . . well, let's just be glad mirrors don't reflect odors.

Let's say you observe all this . . . but you do nothing. You ignore all the mess and just leave the house to start your day. Unthinkable! For each of us, such a scenario would be a crisis. In reality, we all come before the mirrors to do business! We gaze hard in that painfully honest reflection with the purpose of doing something about what we see. We look for what needs correcting, and we don't leave the house until we change what needs changing. Otherwise, why even look at a mirror?

The same is true of God's Word. It is a divine mirror that reflects not our outside but our inside. Yet, how often do we read in the Bible, in effect, "You need to pay attention to this area." Do we then close the book and leave unchanged? The apostle James used this exact analogy to drive home his point: "Don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." (James 1:22 NLT)

Each week, the Agape Staff meets for a time of reflection and introspection to make sure that "the main thing remains the main thing." Our scriptural rationale for ministry exists in 2 Corinthians 9:12-15 CSB.

So, how can we reflect this incredible ministry of service? How can we be more effective in the utilization of aircraft? How can we continue to supply the needs of mission partners throughout the nations of the Caribbean enabling them to share the unconditional love of Jesus?

Over the last three months, I have gazed at the mountain of cargo awaiting delivery for missionary affiliates accumulating in the Agape Flights Hangar. I have had a bird's eye view from the second floor of our hangar. Watching this mountain grow has caused anxiety and frustration because we want to deliver everything that mission partners need. We would like to get it to them yesterday, not next week. However, over the last few days God has provided a different perspective for me through His Word and through His people. In Galatians 6:9-10 God commands us to not grow weary in doing good for others. For 45 years, God has called Agape Flights to supply the needs of mission partners throughout Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas and Cuba. God continues to stretch us to stand and support mission partners through the ever-changing challenges that each of these countries present.

My prayer is that in spite of the many challenges we face in supplying the needs, that through everything, Jesus will be reflected and seen, high and lifted up, so that all will be drawn to Him and the salvation He provides!

Thank you for prayerfully and financially supporting Agape Flights,

Allen T. Speer, CEO

The second reporting period at the Peacemaker School of Petit Goave (PSPG), under the leadership of Beverly Burton and Christian Light Ministries, is a pivotal time of connection between parents and the school. As students receive the blessing of education, it is essential to remember the importance of prayer and community support, especially during these challenging times. The safety of the school and its students is a primary concern as Haiti faces growing instability. Gangs have taken control of neighborhoods like Delmas 19, causing many residents to flee to safer areas such as Delmas



31. The violence is spreading, with gangs moving through Gressier and now threatening to overtake communities near Leogane.

PSPG, located in the heart of this turmoil, continues to provide education and hope to its students, but the situation is becoming more precarious. In light of these threats, we ask for prayers for the safety of the school, its students, and staff. Please pray for protection from the violence surrounding them and for wisdom in navigating these dangerous circumstances. We also pray for peace to return to Haiti and for divine intervention to bring confusion and dissension among the gangs, halting their progress.



Night to Shine Participant

In Haiti, individuals with special needs have long faced isolation and neglect, living in a society where accessibility remains a distant dream. However, one remarkable evening changed everything. The Hands and Feet Project located in Jacmel, in partnership with the Tim Tebow Foundation, hosted Night to Shine, an event that gave these individuals the rare opportunity to feel seen, celebrated, and valued. For many, this was a life-changing experience. Walkens, a staff member, reflected on the significance: “Before, people with disabilities were often humiliated in society. But tonight, they felt proud of who they are.” The event was more than just a night of fun — it was a moment of empowerment. Maxime, another staff member, described the red carpet walk as a symbol of the participants’ worth: “It’s not just about dancing. It’s about everyone feeling celebrated, valued, and singing together.” Throughout the night, the atmosphere was filled with compassion and joy. The event allowed individuals with special needs to experience joy of feeling loved. It also highlighted the beauty and strength of each person, reinforcing the message that every individual, regardless of their situation, is deserving of care, dignity, and respect.

This past month has been both a time of growth and challenge for Josh Brown and the YWAM team in Les Cayes, Haiti. One of the standout experiences was when Josh and the staff butchered a cow together. It was a unique and eye-opening task, as Josh quickly realized how different the cows are in Haiti—this one had almost no fat. Despite the challenge, the team worked closely, learning and laughing together. A few days later, Josh took on the task of butchering a hog and learned the technique of burning off the hair to preserve the skin for the meat. These experiences have been a bonding time for the team, deepening their connections through shared hard work. The soccer tournament, which has been held every weekend since January, has been another highlight. Through this outreach, Josh and the team have had the opportunity to share the gospel with 50-100 people each Saturday and Sunday during halftime. It’s been a powerful way to connect with the local community while spreading the message of Christ. The tournament has become an important platform for building relationships, not only through the game itself but through the conversations and connections made during the breaks. Through these experiences, Josh continues to find new ways to connect with the people in Les Cayes and share the love of Christ in meaningful ways.



SMILES OF HOPE: DENTISTS BRINGING CARE TO HONDURAS

At Agape Flights, we have the privilege of supporting incredible volunteers who dedicate their time, energy, and skills to communities that need it most. One such volunteer is Dr. Paul Feit, a dedicated dentist at Gulf Cove Dental and one of our volunteer pilots. Recently, Paul and a team of 12 volunteers embarked on a truly remarkable mission to the remote village of Ahuas in the La Mosquitia region of Southeastern Honduras. Their goal was to provide much-needed dental care to a community with limited access to such services. It's the kind of mission that reminds us of the power of service and the life-changing impact of even the smallest acts of kindness. Paul's team consisted of two local dentists, two dentists from Baltimore, two certified dental assistants, one dental hygienist, and five support personnel, including Kevin Davis, one of our Friday morning volunteers. Together, they flew to Honduras aboard Agape Flights' F406 plane, carrying more than 1,200 pounds of essential dental supplies—items that would have been very difficult to transport without our assistance. Among



these supplies were 600 toothbrushes, 38 pounds of toothpaste, antibiotics, a badly needed autoclave, a generator, a portable dental unit, and vital dental instruments. The journey to Ahuas was not an easy one. Ahuas is isolated, with no roads connecting it to the outside world. The only way to reach the village is by boat or airplane. The team's first stop was Puerto Lempira. From there, they faced a 5.5-hour boat ride to get to Ahuas. This boat trip, while physically demanding, was just the beginning of the challenges that awaited them. Once they arrived in Ahuas, the conditions were starkly different from what most of us would expect in a typical dental office. The local clinic, supported by the Moravian Board of World Mission for over 75 years, had two very basic dental rooms. With limited resources and no air conditioning in temperatures that reached 95 degrees, Paul and his team got to work. The situation was dire, and the need was overwhelming. Paul's team focused on extracting infected teeth, as

there was simply not enough time or resources to perform more advanced procedures like cavity fillings or cleanings.

Over the course of four days, they treated 283 patients and extracted 840 teeth, providing relief to many people who had been living with untreated infections and pain for far too long. Paul's passion for serving these underserved communities runs deep. He is the only dentist who regularly leads teams into Ahuas and the surrounding areas, and he knows firsthand the challenges the people there face. Without volunteer teams coming to help, locals must travel hours by boat to reach the nearest dentist. For many, that trip is simply too costly, and they go without care, suffering from tooth infections and other dental issues. The work Paul and his team did is nothing short of heroic, as it gave the people of Ahuas a chance at pain relief



and restored their dignity. One of Paul's long-term goals is to improve the runway in Ahuas, which would allow teams to avoid the long boat ride from Puerto Lempira. This would not only make future missions more efficient but also ensure that dental and medical teams can get in and out of the village more easily. Until that day comes, though, we're proud to support missions like Paul's, knowing that our flights make a real difference in the lives of those in need. At Agape Flights, we are deeply grateful to have been part of this mission. Paul and his team's dedication, along with Agape's support, brought much-needed care to a community that is too often overlooked. We are committed to serve alongside such passionate volunteers, and we look forward to continuing to provide the logistical support needed to

bring about transformation in communities across the globe. Together, we are flying hope, healing, and change to some of the most remote corners of the world, empowering individuals and fostering stronger, healthier communities through compassion and service.

FROM THE FLIGHTDECK

GREG HAMAN- DIRECTOR OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS

Reflecting on my 15 years at Agape Flights, it's incredible to see how much has unfolded during that time. When I first walked through the hangar doors, I had no idea what I was stepping into. But from day one, God made it clear that this was a journey of service. Just a week into my role, on January 10, Haiti was struck by a devastating earthquake. It was a shocking experience that immediately called us into action to support Haiti's recovery efforts. Unfortunately, not long after the earthquake, we lost our King-Air plane due to a collapsed gear. It was a tough setback, but it taught me early on that things don't always go as planned. Still, God gives us moments that remind us why we do what we do. One of those moments came on my first flight with Steve Koch. We flew over Haiti after Hurricane Matthew, and the devastation was beyond anything we could have imagined—it looked as if a bomb had gone off. When we landed, Mark Stockeland from Haiti Bible Mission backed his vehicle up to us and said something that has stayed with me ever since: "You don't know how this is going to help people." Those words have fueled me every day since. Over the years, despite all the challenges and growth, the mission has remained clear: to serve the missionaries so they can serve those in need. I've learned that you can't truly help the soul until you've first helped the body. These 15 years have been both challenging and rewarding, and I wouldn't trade them for anything.



HANGAR HAPPENINGS

NIGHT OF WORSHIP



PIE IN THE SKY 2025!



THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS HAPPEN!

- 1,300 ATTENDEES
- 103 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
- 1,400 SLICES OF PIE ENJOYED
- 1,300 SLICES OF PIZZA ENJOYED
- MORE THAN \$83,000 RAISED FOR AGAPE!



WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

JASON LUCAS



Agape Flights is happy to welcome Jason Lucas as a new board member. Jason has been practicing law for over two decades in Florida. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Florida, a Juris Doctorate from Stetson Law School, and an MBA from Stetson University. Jason and his wife, Candace, have been married for 23 years and have two children, Jackson, 18, and Laila, 16. The family shares a love for travel, having visited 47 states, with plans to visit the last three this year. Jackson is the captain of the Venice High School baseball team and will play college baseball at Troy University in Alabama. Laila, an avid dancer, hopes to join a professional ballet company and open her own dance studio. After participating in a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, Jason felt called to join Agape Flights' board, as it aligns with his passion for service. Welcome Jason!

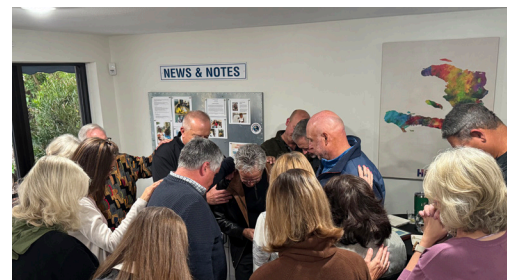
CHRISTINE D. O'BRIEN



Christine D. O'Brien is honored to join the board of Agape Flights. She brings an incredible array of experience in both the church and non-profit world. With a deep commitment to supporting those who share the unconditional love of Christ, Chris is passionate about equipping mission partners with the resources they need to make a lasting impact here at Agape. She and her husband, Bill, have been married for 22 years, moved to Venice eight years ago, where she became the Executive Director of Venice Presbyterian Church. Chris and Bill are blessed with six children and twelve grandchildren. Chris feels a strong connection to Agape Flights' mission, believing in the power of serving those on the front lines of ministry. We are so grateful to have Chris on board here at Agape Flights!

THANK YOU KYLE HENSON FOR 9 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kyle Henson has faithfully served on the Agape Flights' Board of Directors for three terms, totaling over nine years. Here's what CEO Allen Speer has to say about him: "Kyle and his wife, Terri known as Team Henson - were introduced to my wife and I through a mutual friend. Kyle and Terri are Realtors in the Lakewood Ranch area, and that initial meeting led to Team Henson becoming our house hunters and our friends." Ministry is at the heart of everything Kyle does. From serving as a Volunteer Chaplain for the Pittsburgh Pirates, to going on mission trips and faithfully serving at his home church, Bayside Community Church, his passion for ministry is evident in all areas of his life. Over the past nine years, Kyle has served Agape Flights in nearly every way imaginable—from Chair of the Board to greeter at nearly every Agape event. He's traveled throughout the Caribbean, including the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, and Haiti, encouraging Agape's missionaries along the way. While Kyle will be greatly missed on the Board of Directors, one thing is certain—he won't be a stranger. His love for the ministry, along with his example of sacrifice, commitment, and service, truly reflects the heart of Agape. Thank you, Kyle! WE LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU!



PRAY FOR THE HURTING IN CUBA

Please join us in praying for the people of Cuba, who are facing great turmoil and hardship. The country is struggling with severe challenges, and many families are enduring difficult conditions due to a lack of basic resources. Unfortunately, current policies are making it harder to send relief to Cuba. At Agape Flights, we are committed to providing vital aid, but we need God's guidance and intervention. We ask for open doors to help those in need. Please pray for wisdom for those working to bring relief. May God's mercy shine through in this difficult time and bring hope to those suffering in Cuba.



GIVING UPDATE

REFLECTIONS OF GRACE: CELEBRATING GOD'S WORK THROUGH AGAPE FLIGHTS

To reflect on something is to give “serious thought or consideration to” or “mirror.” In this issue of Flightline the focus has been reflections of grace and celebrating God’s work through our ministry. You will read about some of the ways we have experienced God’s grace through our 45-year history, and the opportunities we’ve been given to reflect on God’s unmerited favor and blessings. We read about God’s grace working for and through our mission partners throughout the Caribbean, our volunteer crew, and in our community. We have also experienced God’s grace through YOU, our donors who choose to give generously to our mission.

In 2024, we were blessed by God’s grace and provision through nearly **1,500** financial partners who collectively gave more than **\$2.2 million** toward our program making it possible for **13** staff members and **110** volunteers to serve nearly **300** missionary affiliates, maintain **2** aircraft and our hangar, and fly **69** mission flights!

Because of you, we flew and flew and flew some more, watching God make a way to deliver **210,000** pounds of mail, cargo, and humanitarian aid. Thank you for trusting us with your resources so that together we can impact millions of people in the Caribbean for Christ!



Thank you for supporting Agape Flights. Your gifts propel us forward to “Serve Christ by serving His missionaries”



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We lift up the nation of Haiti to You, God, in this time of turmoil. Lord, we ask for Your protection over the people, especially those affected by the violence and chaos caused by gangs. Change the hearts of the leaders and citizens, and draw them closer to You. May Your peace reign in the midst of this storm, and may Your love transform hearts, bringing hope, restoration, and unity. We trust and wait for Your divine intervention.

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