



SPRING 2026

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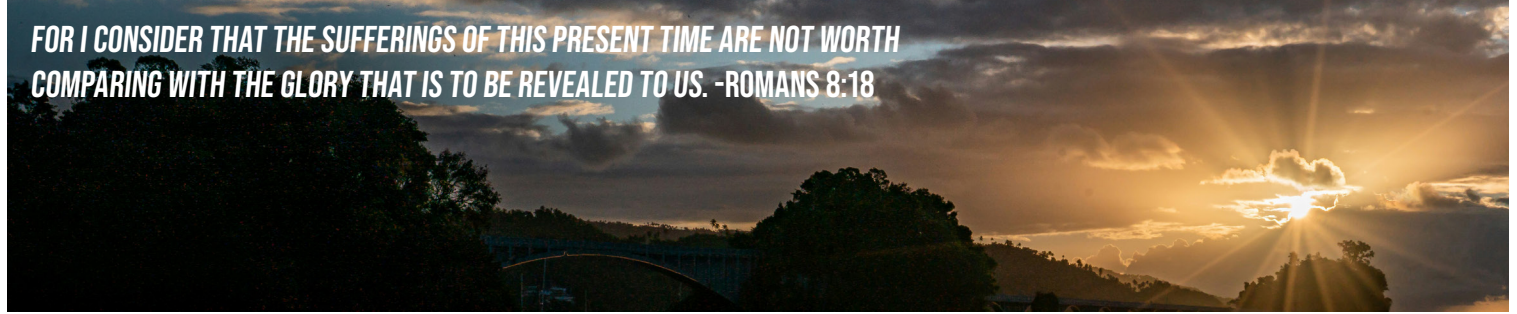
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# FLIGHTLINE

A PUBLICATION OF AGAPE FLIGHTS

*Delivering LOVE & HOPE to the nations of the Caribbean*

**FOR I CONSIDER THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTH  
COMPARING WITH THE GLORY THAT IS TO BE REVEALED TO US. -ROMANS 8:18**



## RISING TO MEET THE NEED: AGAPE FLIGHTS NEXT CHAPTER

On April 8, 2026, the sun felt a little warmer here in Venice, Florida, and the sky a little wider as we gathered on a patch of ground that will soon become something far greater than just steel and concrete. On that day, this was not a construction site, it was God fulfilling a promise to the entire Agape Flights family.

Airport officials, partners, and longtime supporters mingled easily, all drawn together by a shared belief: that small acts of faithfulness can reach places we may never see.

When the first shovels broke the earth, there was a pause, quiet, almost reverent. We all understood what it meant. This was the fulfillment of a three-year vision, and the beginning of a new chapter for Agape Flights.

For years, this mission has been about showing up for those who serve others across the Caribbean, delivering supplies and connecting with people working in some of the most remote and dangerous places. But as the needs have grown, so has the weight of responsibility. That reality stood with us on that piece of worn dirt.

This new 12,000-square-foot Aircraft Maintenance Hangar, dedicated entirely to keeping aircraft ready and reliable, is more than just a building to all of us here at Agape Flights. It's a necessary step forward. With it comes the ability to care for a larger aircraft and to respond more quickly when it matters most. It means more opportunities to say "yes" when help is needed.

As we listened to remarks and shared prayer, what stood out most wasn't the size of the project or even the \$2.3 million required to complete it. It was the unity. The sense that this effort belongs not to one group or one moment, but to all of us who believe in the work God is doing through Agape

Flights daily. Completion is expected in early 2027 but, in many ways, the work has already begun: in prayers, and in the quiet decisions people are making to be part of something bigger than themselves.

That day, as people lingered longer than expected, reluctant to leave, it became clear to all of us: we were honoring not only what has carried us this far, but also what will carry us forward.

There is still a long road ahead. We will continue to share updates along the way, inviting others to walk with us, to invest and pray for God's will in every part of this expansion. This mission has always been a shared one and we are not looking to stray from that anytime soon. If April 8th reminded us of anything, it is this: when people come together with purpose, even a simple patch of dirt can become holy ground consecrated by God's calling.



## FROM THE CEO



Allen Speer CEO

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### AGAPE FLIGHTS: THE TIME IS NOW

For 46 years, Agape Flights has stood as a testimony to the faithfulness of God. Time and time again, He has provided exactly what was needed—often at just the right moment. Today, we find ourselves at one of those defining faith-filled moments once again.

We are moving forward with a \$2.3 million facility expansion—an essential step to continue and grow the mission of delivering hope and the Gospel throughout the Caribbean. The need is real, and the time is now. By God’s grace, we are not starting from zero. Thanks to an extraordinary partnership with Caldwell Trust and the faithful stewardship of the Edna Harmeyer Endowment by Agape Flights’ leadership team, \$1.2 million has already been secured for this project.

**Construction is no longer a distant plan, it is beginning.**

Tree removal and site preparation start by the end of May. Foundation work will follow immediately. The steel for the building has already been ordered and is expected later this summer. The window is open. The opportunity is in front of us. But we cannot move forward without your help.

**Here’s how you can respond:**

**Pray urgently.**

Pray that by next February (2027), we will be operating out of this new hangar. Pray for provision, protection, and momentum as construction begins. This journey has taken nearly three years to reach this point—now we are on the threshold.

Ask God what He would have you do and respond in obedience. Please give sacrificially. Every dollar given will have eternal impact for our ministry. This is a defining opportunity to be part of something far greater than ourselves.

Many have already stepped forward. Now it’s time for all of us to step up and step out in faith.

These past months have been some of the most difficult in our 46-year history. Yet even in the challenges, God has proven Himself faithful. And we believe with confidence, He will do it again.

The question is not whether God will provide.

The question is: will each of us respond when He calls?

As you read this edition of Flightline, don’t wait.

Ask God how He would have you be part of this moment, and act.

Together, we can build what is needed to carry the Gospel further than ever before throughout the Nations of the Caribbean.

Thank you for standing with us in this critical hour.

Allen T. Speer CEO

## FROM THE MISSION FIELD



Nicauri Toribio Martinez's story is one of resilience shaped by hardship, patience, and determination. At 37 years old, the husband and father has spent nearly a decade navigating life after losing his left leg in a motorcycle accident at just 28. What followed was not only a physical challenge, but an emotional and financial strain on his entire family. Married for 17 years, Nicauri and his wife have faced these trials together. While she took on babysitting work to support their household, Nicauri refused to give up his role as a provider. Over the years, they sought help from 14 different organizations, but each promise of a prosthetic leg fell through, leaving them discouraged, but they still pressed on. Determined to contribute, Nicauri took out a loan to purchase a three-wheel cargo motorbike and began making deliveries. It gave him purpose, until tragedy struck again when he was robbed at gunpoint, losing both his earnings and the motorbike, while the debt remained.

Despite everything, Nicauri persisted. When his story reached our mission partner, Centro De Protesis in the Dominican Republic, action followed. After nine long years of waiting, he finally received his first prosthetic leg, restoring not just mobility, but also dignity and hope for his family's future.

Across Haiti, we are seeing new life take root in places once marked by deep brokenness. Through our partnership with Haitian Christian Outreach, we get to witness true hope being restored. We see it in the waters of baptism, as men and women boldly declare their faith and step into a new beginning. We see it in the steady growth of the Emmanuel Christian Churches, where pastors faithfully shepherd and disciple their communities. And we see it in classrooms, clinics, and daily moments where care and encouragement are meeting real needs. This work is not only something to celebrate, it is something we are witnessing firsthand. What once felt lost is being renewed, and what was broken is being rebuilt through consistent ministry and compassionate service. In Haiti, resurrection is not just a message for Easter. It is a reality unfolding in communities, families, and individual lives. Through faithful partners on the ground, we are honored to play a small part in what God is doing to bring restoration, dignity, and hope.



In a region marked by sorrow and ongoing instability, mission partner Doris Clotaire has continued to guide the work at USITA University with quiet perseverance and hope. Since the university opened in October 2015, the path has not been easy, with delays from COVID, national and international unrest, and student disruptions. Yet this year brought a long-awaited breakthrough as several agricultural students successfully defended their theses and received their diplomas. The graduation in BS Agriculture was deeply celebrated, lifting morale across the campus and inspiring younger students to persist.

At the end of 2025, the school community gathered for a joyful year-end celebration that began with worship, followed by games, laughter, and a shared meal on the grounds. Learning also extended beyond the classroom through visits to satellite farms, including Madame Combe's, where first-semester students saw practical farming methods in action and realized their own potential, especially as alumni now apply these skills in real life. Amid these gains, safety improvements continued, including the successful completion of a raised north campus wall in December, restoring security to the grounds.

# FEBRUARY 5TH MEMORIAL

On the afternoon of February 5th, 2026, a quiet mission of compassion became a moment of profound sorrow. Agape Flights aircraft N316AF, an Embraer 110, dropped off radar over Jérémie, Haiti, prompting an urgent search that carried through the night and into the next day. When the aircraft was located in the mountains of Haiti, the devastating loss was confirmed, and hearts across the Agape Flights community were forever changed. We mourn the loss of pilots Patrick Decker and Kory Elleby, men whose lives reflected deep faith, courage, and a steadfast commitment to serving others. They were not only skilled aviators, but devoted servants of God's kingdom, faithfully delivering hope, supplies, and connection to communities in need. Until their final moments, they lived out their calling with humility and love. They are remembered as heroes not for a single act, but for lives faithfully poured out in service. Our hearts ache for their families, who now face an unimaginable loss. We lift them up in prayer, for strength when the burden feels too heavy to carry, for comfort in moments of deep silence, and for the peace of God to gently surround them each day. May they feel held, even in the midst of such profound grief. We also pray for the entire Agape Flights family as we walk through this painful season together. In moments like these, we hold tightly to what we believe: We Listen. We Respond. God Delivers. Even now, in sorrow and uncertainty, we trust that God is present and will carry us through. As Scripture reminds us in Isaiah 41:10, *we are not alone, God strengthens, upholds, and walks with us, even here.*

## PATRICK DECKER MEMORIAL



Patrick was first and foremost a loving and dedicated husband to Kathy for 40 beautiful years and a proud father to their two grown children. His family was the center of his world. If you knew Patrick, you knew how deeply he loved; steadily, faithfully, and without needing recognition. Service wasn't something Patrick did. It was who he was. He flew for United Airlines for 40 years and one month, a career that reflected both his incredible skill and his steady confidence in the cockpit. Flying was not just a job; it was something he truly loved. One of Patrick's greatest joys in his final months at United was getting to fly as Captain while his son served as First Officer. Sharing the cockpit together was more than a professional milestone; it was a deeply meaningful season for both of them. To sit side by side,

doing what he loved most with one of the people he loved most, was a gift Patrick treasured. Patrick served as a firefighter for 50 years, including as Fire Chief for Sparta, New Jersey in 1996. For five decades, he ran toward emergencies when others were running away. He led with strength, but also with compassion. Nine years ago, he became a volunteer pilot with Agape Flights, and he faithfully served each week in cargo as well. He was the kind of man you could always count on. If something needed fixing, organizing, or just plain doing, Patrick was there. He baked pies for Pie in the Sky. He helped a fellow volunteer install a toilet without hesitation. He showed up early. He stayed late. He never needed applause. He just loved helping. Patrick and Kathy loved to travel and ride their bikes around town. Wherever they went, joy seemed to follow. You could often hear Patrick before you saw him. His booming, unmistakable voice filling the room, usually followed by laughter. He had a presence that made you feel safe, welcomed, and included. We will miss him more than we can put into words. Patrick lived a life that mattered. Not because of titles or accomplishments, though there were many, but because of the way he showed up for people. He served faithfully. He loved deeply. He gave generously of his time, his strength, and his heart. And that kind of life leaves a mark that will never fade.



## FEBRUARY 5TH MEMORIAL CONT.



## KORY ELLEBY MEMORIAL



Kory was a devoted husband, a loving and proud father of two grown sons, and a caring presence in his mother's life. He approached life and his call to serve with Agape Flights with wholehearted devotion. In 2016, he and his wife, Ruthie, relocated from Illinois to Venice, Florida, where they founded Sunshine Electrical Services, Inc. What began as a modest venture grew into a trusted and respected business serving Venice and the surrounding communities. From the outset, Kory built the company on two guiding principles: loving God and serving people well. That commitment was evident in every project, every conversation, and every relationship he cultivated.

Kory flew with Agape Flights for eight years, and aviation was one of his greatest joys. His passion for flying began early, he earned his pilot's license even before obtaining his driver's license and flying remained a defining part of his life. He possessed a rare gift for making strangers feel like lifelong friends, leaving people everywhere he went feeling encouraged, valued, and truly seen. Kory carried a servant's heart into every space he entered and often said that flying with Agape Flights was not simply a role, but a calling that he deeply cherished. Beyond his work and service, Kory found deep joy

in the simple moments, time spent with family, sharing laughter with friends, and offering a helping hand wherever it was needed. He lived with quiet integrity and steady faith, never seeking recognition but consistently reflecting compassion and generosity. Whether in the air, at work, or in everyday encounters, he brought light and warmth to those around him. His life was a testament to faith in action, and his example will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. All of us at Agape Flights will miss his kindness, his unwavering humor, and even his bold, unforgettable shirts. Kory faithfully served the Kingdom of God, and his legacy will endure through the countless lives he touched with every encounter.



## PRAYERS AND UPDATES

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### BECAUSE OF YOU WE RAISED OVER 190K THIS GIVING CHALLENGE!



WOW! We are still blown away by the incredible generosity of the Agape Flights family. In just 24 hours during the Giving Challenge on April 15–16, we raised over \$190,000 to support the mission of Agape Flights. With 834 individual donations, this outpouring of support is nothing short of extraordinary and a true reflection of our community united in purpose. Every gift, no matter the size, played a vital role in helping us reach this milestone. We are deeply grateful to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for organizing such an impactful event, and to The Patterson Foundation for amplifying generosity by matching every individual donation between \$25 and \$100. Their partnership made a meaningful difference and inspired even greater participation. Time and again,

we are reminded of the strength and compassion of the Agape Flights family. We know we say it often, but thank you for always supporting our mission with such incredible generosity. Your commitment allows us to continue serving those in need and extending God's Agape love where it is needed most. We truly cannot do what we do without you. This challenge was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together. Thank you for believing in this mission and for being such an essential part of it daily.

### CELEBRATING THE STEWARDSHIP OF ADRIENNE MCCUTCHEON

Agape Flights honors Adrienne McCutcheon as she retires from the Board of Directors after nine years of faithful service, including her impactful tenure as Board Chair. Throughout her leadership, Adrienne has been a steadfast supporter of the mission, offering wisdom, encouragement, and a deep commitment to advancing the work of Agape Flights. Her time on the board has been marked not only by strong leadership, but by a genuine willingness to serve wherever needed. Adrienne's warm demeanor and approachable spirit have left a lasting impression on staff, volunteers, and fellow board members alike. She has consistently led with both compassion and clarity, helping guide the organization through seasons of growth and opportunity. Many will fondly remember her hands-on involvement in the field, especially during her time in the Dominican Republic in 2023, where she served alongside the Project Mañana team. In that setting, Adrienne demonstrated her heart for the mission, encouraging those around her and reminding the team of the deeper purpose behind their work. While she will be greatly missed, Agape Flights celebrates Adrienne's legacy and looks forward to seeing what the future holds for her. Her influence will continue to be felt for years to come.



ADRIENNE PICTURED WITH ALLEN SPEER AND REBECCA MCQUILLEN

### AGAPE FLIGHTS WELCOMES DAVID YOHN AS CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Agape Flights has announced the election of David Yohn as Chair of its Board of Directors, effective December 2025. A dedicated member of the board since 2017, David has long been one of the organization's most steadfast supporters, offering



DAVID PICTURED WITH ALLEN SPEER

both guidance and encouragement as Agape Flights expanded its mission and impact. David steps into this leadership role at a pivotal time. As Agape Flights experiences one of the most significant seasons of growth in its history, his steady vision and commitment will help guide the organization through both exciting opportunities and complex challenges. His deep understanding of the ministry's purpose, combined with years of active involvement, uniquely positions him to lead the board into this next chapter. Beyond his work with Agape Flights, David is also known as a co-founder of iBusiness Solutions, based in Sarasota, where he has demonstrated strong leadership and a passion for building effective organizations. These qualities

have been evident throughout his tenure on the board and will continue to serve the ministry well. Agape Flights invites its community of supporters, partners, and friends to join in prayer for David as he assumes this important role. With gratitude for his faithful service and anticipation for what lies ahead, the organization looks forward to the continued advancement of its mission under his leadership.

## GIVING UPDATE

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### BEING THE CONNECTION POINT FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

My granddaughter is playing the lead role in her kindergarten class end-of-year program and graduation. For one afternoon in May, she will don a headband and transform into the Little Red Hen. She is so excited to wear the costume and say her lines.

I found myself thinking about her Haitian counterpart. Another little girl with a bright future, made possible because missionaries from her church started a school. But that church and school need books, Bibles, and evangelism materials. The community she lives in needs medicine and clean water. And that one little girl may even need a headband with bright red feathers for her graduation play.



It's a simple picture, but it represents something much bigger. Every item, no matter how small matters. And getting those items into the hands of our mission partners takes careful coordination, space, and consistent deliveries. The foundational work of building our additional hangar facility began nearly three years ago with a problem to solve: our mission partners need resources to impact the Caribbean for Christ more than ever. More cargo than ever was arriving at our current hangar, with our pilots making one to two delivery flights each week. However, nearly 50,000 pounds of essential supplies still needed to be transported to the field on time. We realized that we needed to expand our services to meet the growing needs of our mission partners.

As this new expansion takes off, I invite you to learn more about the new hangar facility, by calling us at 941-488-0990 or visiting our website, [AgapeFlights.com](http://AgapeFlights.com) and click on "Expanding the Mission." There you can read specifics about how the new hangar will be utilized and see in-depth renderings. If you are ready to give toward our mission expansion, use the link "Join the Build Here!" and enter your donation amount in the fund named "New Hangar/Maintenance Facility."

Let's grow together!

*-Shelly Watkins, Director of Donor Engagement*



**WAYS TO GIVE:**

-  **Mail a check**  
(Use the enclosed envelope)
-  **Online at [AgapeFlights.com/Donate](http://AgapeFlights.com/Donate)**  
(Credit Card or ACH)
-  **Call us at 941-488-0990**

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MISSION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

SECOND MILE HAITI WAS FOUNDED IN RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE, FAMILY-CENTERED CARE. THEIR LIVE-IN RECOVERY CENTER ALLOWS MALNOURISHED CHILDREN TO HEAL ALONGSIDE THEIR PARENTS, SUPPORTED BY HEALTH EDUCATORS. BY EQUIPPING FAMILIES WITH KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES, THEY HELP PREVENT SEPARATION AND EMPOWER PARENTS TO BUILD HEALTHIER FUTURES, BREAKING THE CYCLE OF MALNUTRITION.  
[WWW.SECONDMILEHAITI.ORG](http://WWW.SECONDMILEHAITI.ORG)

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