

# FLIGHTLINE

A PUBLICATION OF AGAPE FLIGHTS

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

## EVACUATED MISSIONARIES LOOK FORWARD TO HAITI RISING FROM THE ASHES

Don't tell missionary Marc Honorat that the current crisis in Haiti is beyond God's reach. Born into a family of 15 children, 5-year-old Marc was given away by his voodoo parents to become a house slave. "My parents offered everything they had to the devil," Honorat said recently. "They couldn't feed or clothe us."

For the next seven years as a slave, he endured physical and verbal abuse, sleeping on dirt floors and eating once a day. He was responsible for cooking, cleaning, carrying water, and tending a garden. School wasn't an option.

### A NEW BIRTH

When he was 12, one of Marc's siblings rescued him and got him to a Christian school. A Canadian family sponsored him, helped him graduate high school at age 25, and then helped him attend college in Jamaica. That's where he met his future wife, Lisa. The couple eventually attended Bible college together in Canada, got married, and began making mission trips to Haiti. Haiti Arise was born out of those short-term mission trips – and God's call on them to do even more.

Today Haiti Arise employs nearly 200 locals as it works to impact the Grand Goave area with the transformative power of the gospel. Feeding and education are important to Haiti Arise, as are the dozens of construction projects they have happening at any time. Students learn how to raise goats to provide for their families, helping to break the generational dependence on agricultural imports.

### TRUSTING FOR TOMORROW

Marc Honorat still has high hopes for Haiti, even with the upheaval of 2024.

"Absolutely, I have hope for Haiti," he said recently "God's ways are always better than our ways."

Honorat believes the same God who allowed him to be taken from home when he was five is the same God who can change Haiti's future through the current turmoil.

"If I had stayed home and not been a slave, I don't know what I'd be doing today," he says. "God had a plan long before I could see it."

And that's where Marc and Lisa are placing their faith today—



in the unseen plan God has for Haiti's future.

"I absolutely believe Haiti will rise out of the ashes," Marc said recently. "It will be in such a way that no man can receive the glory – but, yes, I believe Haiti will come out of this."

### GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

As they seek God's timing for their eventual return to Haiti, the Honorats are thankful for the flight that brought Marc back to America. "I knew there was only one organization that could get me out of Haiti," he recalls. "I knew it was Agape."



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## FROM THE CEO

### GOD IS MORE THAN ABLE

Jennifer and I recently had lunch with missionaries Marc and Lisa Honorat, less than 48 hours after Agape helped evacuate Marc from Haiti. As I listened to them speak of God moving through their ministry Haiti Arise, I became convinced that there is so much more to the story yet to be written. God is not finished pointing the Caribbean people toward Himself.

For thousands of people like the Honorats who have dedicated their lives to the gospel and to Haiti, I pray from Habakkuk 1, beginning in verse 2:

*"O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted."*

And then, the Lord's answer, in verse 5:

*"Look among the nations and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe even if told."*

I have found myself clinging to that promise during these recent months that have been so challenging for me personally and in ministry. You'll often find me at my desk with an open Bible and worship music in the background. One of my recent favorites is "More than Able" by Elevation Worship:

*When did I start to forget all of the great things You did? When did I throw away faith for the impossible? How did I start to believe You weren't sufficient for me? Why do I talk myself out of seeing miracles? You are more than able. Who am I to deny what the Lord can do?*

*I know who I am I can't stay where I'm at. We've come this far by faith And I just can't turn back. You're not done with me yet.*

God is still writing the Agape Flights story and I can confidently say, "He's not done with us yet!"

Will you pray for Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, and Cuba? Will you continue to generously give of your financial resources in order that the unconditional love of Christ is shared in every island nation?

I believe there is help and hope for Haiti and I believe that God has positioned this ministry to be a catalyst for all of the Caribbean. I am praying that simple prayer, "Here we are Lord, send and use us for your Glory!

Thankful for you,

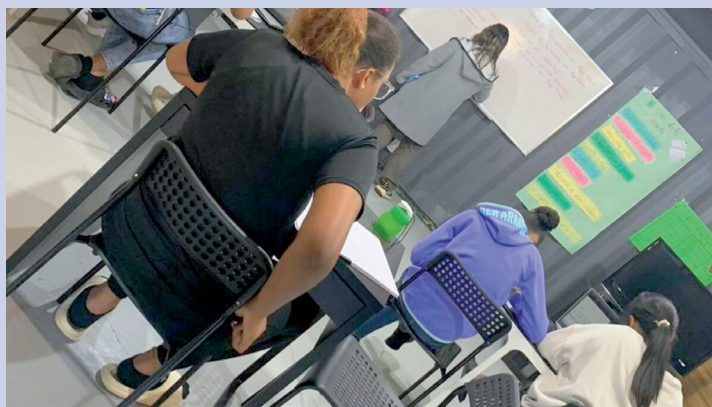
Allen T. Speer



## FROM THE MISSION FIELD



**“One meal, one child, one life at a time.”** That’s the philosophy of Christian Light School’s Sherrie Fausey (see page 4) when it comes to the children of nearby Grand Ravine. The ravine is a vast ramshackle neighborhood formed by two filthy creeks. Fausey and her team of “baby feeders” have been entering the ravine to feed and weigh babies and toddlers for two decades. Because of the essential connection between protein and brain development, eggs are often on the menu. “We are getting smarter children in kindergarten by giving babies good nutrition,” Fausey says. Learn more at [ChristianLightHaiti.org](http://ChristianLightHaiti.org).



**What does rescue and rehabilitation from child sex trafficking look like?** At FIGHT Ministries (“Freeing Individuals from the Grasp of Human Trafficking”) in the Dominican Republic, girls arrive at their refuge with almost nothing. FIGHT’s formula for care includes immediate protection from harm, medical, dental and vision checkups, intensive therapy, recreation and sports, nutrition, class time, and lots and lots of LOVE. FIGHT is looking for Spanish-speaking education and counseling majors to intern or join the team for up to one year. Connect with them today at [Facebook.com/FIGHTMinistries](https://Facebook.com/FIGHTMinistries).



**Prisons in Haiti are severely overcrowded and underfunded.** Haiti Prison and Rehabilitation Ministry’s Andy Faller was moved by the plight of malnourished inmates, up to 40% of whom he says have never gone before a judge. Faller is also deeply concerned about the spiritual wellbeing of the men and women behind bars. Faller and his team provide hot meals weekly to local prisons, together with church services and discipleship. One prison warden welcomes the changes he’s seeing among the inmates. “I had no idea the Bible would have such a calming effect on the prison,” he told Faller. Read more at [HaitiPrisonMinistry.com](http://HaitiPrisonMinistry.com)



**Agape Flights first service in Bombardopolis, Haiti, happened on a very eventful March 22, 2024.** The same day it was used to help bring nearly a dozen missionaries out of Haiti, our Cessna F406 made Agape’s first visit to Bombardopolis in the northwest corner of Haiti. Those initial cargo deliveries included goods for four mission partners in the area. Agape Flights plans to serve Bombardopolis twice a month in 2024. Pictured is the first Agape landing at Bombardopolis. The inset shows Captain Greg Haman in the left seat and First Officer Paul Feit in the right seat as they touched down on the grass and gravel runway.



# MISSIONARY PROFILE

## SHERRIE FAUSEY: CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BRINGS HOPE TO HAITI

When Sherrie Fausey's mission trip to Haiti went awry in 2000, she begged God for answers.

"I pitched a tantrum to the Lord, saying, 'I don't know why I'm here,'" Fausey said. "And the Lord said, 'You're coming back to start a school.'"

At 52 years old, Fausey uprooted her life as an elementary school educator in Jacksonville, Florida, to follow God's calling to Haiti more than two decades ago. The nation had already captured her heart. "It was hot; it was dirty. There were bugs. I loved it," Fausey remembered. "I loved the people."



Missionary Sherrie Fausey was trapped in the rubble of her school after the devastating earthquake of 2010. Today there's nowhere she'd rather be than with "her kids" at Christian Light School.

Her love for Haitians and obedience to God led her to begin Christian Light School, which enrolls three-year-olds to high schoolers. Today, the school provides food and a Christian education to 225 students



Students at Christian Light School learn to read, speak, and write multiple languages.

who were mostly born in a slum area near a ravine in Port-au-Prince.

### 'EVERYTHING COMES FROM THE LORD'

Recently, Fausey watched several boys in the school's activity lab excitedly jump up and down after putting a puzzle together.

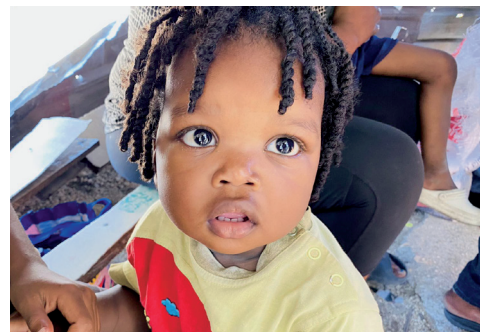
It's not lost on Fausey that moments like these are owed to the Lord's provision and the generous people who support Christian Light School. Agape Flights has made thousands of deliveries for the school at Port-au-Prince's Toussaint Louverture airport.

After Fausey narrowly survived the school's collapse in the devastating 2010 earthquake, Agape sent two-and-a-half tons of supplies for Christian Light School to recover and help surrounding areas.

The school has received items like textbooks, computers, building blocks, educational videos, puzzles, and games for children. "You can't buy those things in Haiti," Fausey explained. "One lady sent us 25 microscopes, and if we didn't have Agape, what would we do?"

Every year, Agape helps deliver supplies for Christian Light School that become Christmas gifts for over 400 people, including staff, school-children, and those enrolled in the school's baby feeding program.

"They light up," Fausey described the children's faces at Christmastime. "They know that we will be giving them some kind of gifts and that we're doing this because we love them through the love of Jesus. I try to keep



One of the local Port au Prince children who benefits from the feeding program led by Sherrie Fausey.

reminding them that it's not me. It's not the people from the office bringing gifts to them. It's from the Lord. Everything comes from the Lord."

One Agape mission helped change a Haitian boy's life forever. Miami audiologist Dr. Jane O'Brien partnered with Agape to send a custom hearing device to a young boy born with no external outer ears and an inner ear on just one side. Now, he's a kindergartener at Christian Light School and he's learning to speak in English, Creole, and some French.

Feeding programs are a high priority for Fausey and the staff at Christian Light School. The team helps hundreds of nearby children get at least some fresh food every day, despite the challenges of operating in the midst of violent uprisings that have plagued Haiti since the assassination of its president in 2021.

### A CERTAIN FUTURE AMID CHAOS

Nearly 24 years into ministry in Haiti, Fausey is familiar with the island's constant political chaos. As she plans her retirement from her role as CEO, the 76-year-old doesn't doubt the future of the school, which has had nearly 100 graduates. "The Lord has worked out miracle after miracle for that school to keep going," Fausey said.

"I've loved being in Haiti," Fausey concluded. "I have no regrets."



# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

## PIE IN THE SKY: MARCH 2, 2024

More than 1,500 visited the Agape Flights hangar during the 2024 open hangar event, Pie in the Sky. This year's theme, Love is in the Air, helped to highlight the ongoing story of Agape Flights and our mission partners in the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti. More than 100 volunteers helped park several hundred cars, served up 1,200 slices of pizza, and handed out 1,470 pieces of pie. Auction highlights included a NASCAR ride-along at Daytona International Speedway, flights on two different airplanes, an electric bike, golf outings, and some incredible boating adventures. Thanks to all our auction providers and sponsors, and special thanks to our presenting sponsors, iBusiness Solutions, Girka Design Build, and CenterPointe Christian Church of Venice.



Mark and Lisa Honorat of Haiti Arise with donated baby warmers in the Agape Flights hangar

## WARMING HEARTS IN GRAND GOAVE

Four years after completion of the Birthing Centre at Haiti Arise in Grand Goave, the facility is an important part of the community. In a nation where 75% of women give birth without a skilled birth attendant, the Birthing Centre provides qualified midwives in a home-like birthing environment designed to decrease stress for mothers and newborns. Agape Flights has had the great privilege of donating and delivering baby warmers to several mission partners, including Haiti Arise, so far this year. The first of the Haiti Arise baby warmers arrived not long ago – and more will be coming soon.



The first of six baby warmers arrives at the Haiti Arise Birthing Centre in Grand Goave, Haiti



## GROWING FUTURE GARDENERS

Second Mile Haiti loves to share with the local community. A recent outreach not far from their Cap Haitien Malnutrition Treatment Center helped nearly 200 kids learn to tackle Haiti's food insecurity problem from the ground up. At Academi LEAD School, K-8 kids practiced gardening basics with the Second Mile Haiti team so they can learn to help their own families combat food insecurity well into the future. According to Second Mile Haiti, the students learned the basics of vegetable gardening before they got to work breaking up the soil and making raised beds. Harvest time should bring plenty of carrots, tomatoes, spinach, and peppers.



## Agape Flights Approved for Cuba Relief Flights

Agape Flights is gearing up to resume humanitarian flights into Cuba this year, thanks to a ruling from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The government agency recently issued a license for Agape to conduct eight such flights through October of this year.

“We were one of the first—if not the first organization—to get the license,” CEO Allen Speer said. “We’re very thankful. It’s really a blessing that we got this because it’s something that we have prayed diligently about.”

For the past eight years, Agape has been unable to make deliveries to the largest island in the Caribbean because of United States government prohibition. Pending flight permits from Cuba, this license will allow Agape to deliver our first shipment this spring, including 17 water filtration systems, solar lights and charging stations, Meals of Hope rations, medical equipment, walkers, wheelchairs, non-perishable food, and emergency drinking water.

The timing is critical for Cubans.



This man in Havana is going away with food in his cart thanks to an Agape-funded outreach last year. Just a few minutes earlier, he was sifting through trash looking for something to eat.

Amid a worsening food shortage and economic crisis, the Cuban government has reached out to the United Nation’s food program for help for the first time ever. In addition, the Communist-run island is running low on fuel and medicine.

Last year, Speer noticed the weakening state of the country. “In all my travels, I had never before seen a Cuban eating out of the trash,” said Speer, who has frequently visited the nation over the past three decades. “The food sustainability situation has really deteriorated.”



Agape Flights CEO Allen Speer has been distributing supplies like this powdered milk in Cuba for decades, but he says he’s never seen the situation this dire.

“The milk situation, it’s now past critical. It’s an emergency, and so is the food situation. You have children that are receiving no protein whatsoever. Rice and beans are



even scarce these days,” Speer continued. “It’s very alarming.”

Allen Speer was a senior pastor for over 30 years, having made countless mission trips to Cuba and ministered to many Cuban government officials and politicians, including Fidel Castro. In Cuba, he’s lovingly called “the Jesus Man.”

During Cuba’s crises, he’s encouraging believers to pray for the food sustainability and leadership in the nation. Speer has seen the Cuban church remain steadfast, even as pastors are being persecuted and imprisoned.

“The Lord has great things for us to do in Cuba. If we can get the Cuban government and the U.S. government to let us do what we do, we’ll stay out of the politics,” Speer said. “We’ll give them things that they need to impact Cuba for Christ.”



# GIVING UPDATE

## Lessons from Tax Season

### Qualified Charitable Deductions:

#### Using IRS-Mandated IRA Distributions to Fund Your Ministry Passion

In 2023, Agape Flights introduced its online suite of Smart Giving tools—including a new portal at [AgapeFlights.com](https://AgapeFlights.com) where donors can initiate a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD). QCDs are a great way for retirees to support their favorite charities – if you know the rules. Although we recommend you consult your financial planner or tax advisor for advice on how QCDs can impact your retirement planning and your tax situation, here is some helpful information from our smart giving partner, FreeWill.

#### WHAT ARE QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS?

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are distributions from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) made directly to a qualified nonprofit organization such as Agape Flights without having the distribution counted as taxable income.

Currently, up to \$105,000 in IRA funds can be counted as QCDs annually. For married couples, each spouse can make QCDs up to the \$105,000 limit for a potential total of \$210,000.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

If you are 70½ years of age or older and have a Traditional IRA, you are eligible to make a QCD.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

QCDs can reduce your income taxes.

Normally, funds that are distributed from a Traditional IRA are includible in your taxable income, which is likely to increase your overall tax burden. In some cases, this additional income may also move you into a higher tax bracket.

However, QCDs are an exception to this rule—funds go directly from your IRA to your chosen charitable organization without going to you first, thereby lowering your adjusted gross income and effectively reducing your income taxes.

#### QCDs CAN SATISFY REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS.

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are amounts that you must withdraw annually from your Traditional IRA once you're eligible (age 72 or 73, depending on your birth year).

If you do not withdraw your RMD, you will face a penalty tax of 25% of the required withdrawal amount. QCDs can be used to meet this RMD requirement and avoid penalties.

#### QCDs MAXIMIZE YOUR CHARITABLE IMPACT.

Because in most cases QCDs do not need to be recognized as income, charitable organizations receive the full amount of the transfer tax-free.

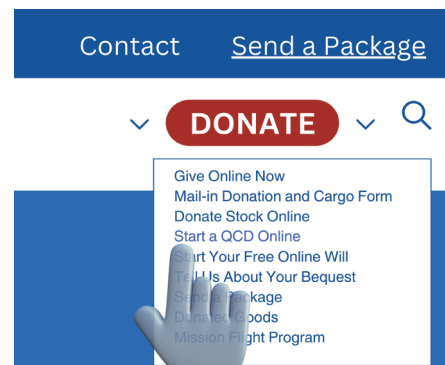
It's a win-win situation that both supports you and the causes you care about.

#### HOW DO YOU GET STARTED?

In the past, making a QCD was a complex process involving contacting your financial custodian and wrangling the correct paperwork.

Now, making a QCD is easier than ever. Just go to our website, input information about your intended gift online, and we'll provide the correct forms with the details filled in. From there, just follow the directions to print, sign, and mail it in.

Get started now at [AgapeFlights.com/QCD](https://AgapeFlights.com/QCD).



Here are some other ways you can make your giving go further:

- Ask if your employer offers a gift-matching program.
- Donate noncash assets such as stocks, mutual funds, or real estate.
- Include Agape Flights in your legacy planning by using the free will-making tool on our website.

Find out more about any of these options at [AgapeFlights.com](https://AgapeFlights.com) under the DONATE button. You can also call us at 941-488-0990 or email [Giving@AgapeFlights.com](mailto:Giving@AgapeFlights.com)





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## MOUNTAINTOP COMMUNITY DEVASTATED BY 2016 HURRICANE WELCOMES NEW SCHOOL



*It's been a long time coming, but these students were excited to begin classes at the new Abiding Savior Church School in Toussaint, Haiti, recently. The former school was heavily damaged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, as was much of the local community. Located on Haiti's southern coast, Mission-Haiti has partnered with Agape Flights since 2015.*

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