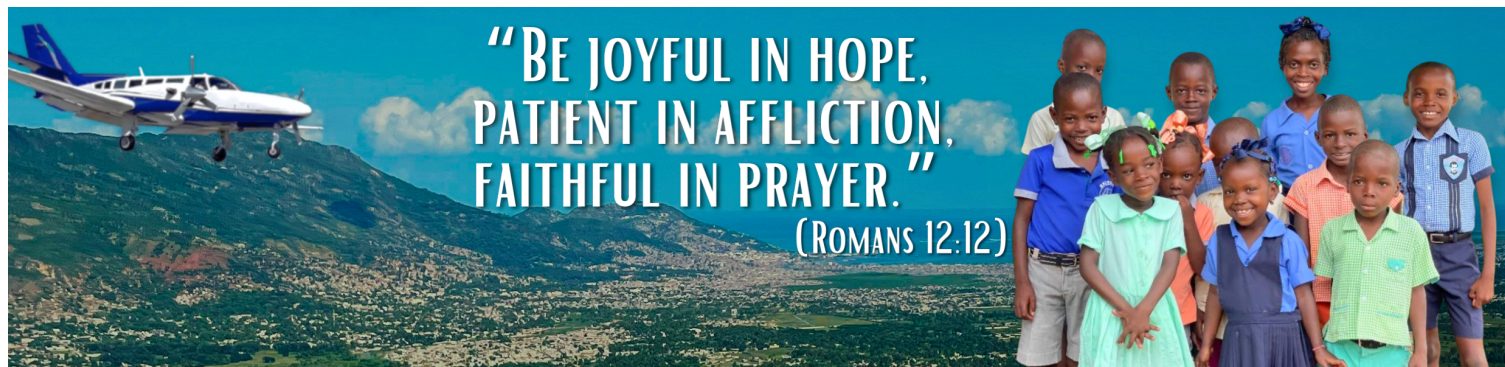


FLIGHTLINE

A PUBLICATION OF AGAPE FLIGHTS

Delivering LOVE & HOPE to the nations of the Caribbean



AGAINST A BACKDROP OF VIOLENCE, THERE IS HOPE FOR HAITI

"Last Wednesday, around 9 pm, as Hertha arrived at our gate, she was shot and robbed by two guys who had followed her into our dark alley."

The email from missionary Nick Troutt in Les Cayes, telling us about his wife, Hertha, was the latest in a spate of bad news from Haiti. Just a few weeks earlier, an International Mission Outreach (IMO) compound at Bon Repos was overrun by gangs. Building materials and other vital supplies, all meant to help Haiti's most vulnerable people, fell into the hands of that nation's most violent people.

Thankfully, Hertha Troutt is home from the hospital and will make a full recovery. We're also pleased to report that no staff was injured when the IMO compound fell. Sadly, though, in a nation where death is a way of life, incidents like these are commonplace.

TURNING THE TIDE TOWARD HOPE

Just a few miles from where Hertha Troutt was wounded, the new academic year was getting underway at Centre Lumière, a school run by missionaries Lee and Tina Nunemaker. Not long ago, young women near Les Cayes had little hope for a productive future. The school's founders often heard the same refrain from locals: "Young women have nothing to do here. When they go to Port-au-Prince looking for a better life, they come back with a baby."

Like so many things in Haiti, that has quietly begun to change.

John and Joyce Hanson of IMO, Nick and Hertha Troutt of Les Cayes, and Lee and Tina Nunemaker of present-day Centre Lumière, are just some of the agents behind this change. You'll meet others elsewhere in this edition of Flightline. Against the backdrop of political and economic chaos, in a nation gripped by gang violence, these and other Agape mission partners risk their lives for a greater good.

Their efforts are injecting hope into families and communities. Babies who would not have survived just a few years ago are now getting lifesaving treatment. Their mothers are learning job skills that can provide income. Girls who might have become young unwed mothers are now focused on education and job training. Men are learning about commitment, fatherhood, and responsibility. The transformational Gospel of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed and lives are being changed.

EVERY BELIEVER HAS A ROLE

People of faith everywhere have a stake in what happens next. Together, let's be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer for the 11 million people in Haiti and for the missionaries who have been called to serve them. ❤️



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FROM THE CEO

IT'S TIME

"Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19 - The Message)

Let's Go...

Almost forty-three years ago, our founders heard the clarion call of Christ to go – to step out in faith and serve missionaries in Haiti. Keith and Clara Starkey borrowed money to buy a plane they couldn't fly because God said, "Go!" That original call has now grown to include weekly flights that also serve missionaries in the Dominican Republic and in the Bahamas – and disaster relief flights anywhere in the Caribbean, anytime they're needed.

Let's Grow...

Just last month we began serving Jacmel, our fifth location in Haiti. Mission partners there no longer have to make the daylong journey to Les Cayes to meet our plane, saving them time and precious resources.

Not long after that, a team from Agape Flights met with potential mission partners in Tegucigalpa and La Ceiba, Honduras. **We're in the process of analyzing the needs and seeking God's direction regarding potential opportunities for serving Honduras in the coming year.**

We also recently submitted a lengthy application to the U.S. Department of Commerce, seeking a special license that would allow us to deliver hope to the largest island in the Caribbean – Cuba. **Please pray for a favorable decision to come quickly.**

As we consider these developments and the dramatic increase in cargo loads at some of our service locations, it's become apparent that we have outgrown our single hangar at Venice Municipal Airport. In September, Agape Flights agreed to partner with J2 Solutions to design and build a new aircraft maintenance hangar adjacent to our existing building. Please pray and consider how you might be a part of this great project.

So That They Can Know...

In keeping with our founders' original vision, we don't ever want to be known as just a cargo and mail delivery service. Anyone with a forklift and an airplane could do that. We want to help deliver the true message of Jesus Christ to people without hope for today or for eternity. We want to help deliver the Good News that Jesus lived and died for us, that He conquered the grave and even hell itself, so we can live abundantly here and now – and eternally in Heaven.

Please pray for us during this time. Pray for God's leading, His provision, and His hand of protection as we go and grow... so that others may know.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD



Water for Life in Haiti (WFL) has been drilling lifegiving wells since the 1980s. Sometimes the organization steps outside its primary mission to change lives through other acts of kindness. Earlier this year, Guillaume, a young husband and father, set out to build a small home on his family's land. When the project stalled, the WFL team helped him by buying the two doors he needed to complete construction and make the small concrete structure secure. "Thank God and thank you, Water for Life, for what you have done for us," Guillaume said recently.



Project Mañana International (PMI) loves helping Dominican families grow. Earlier this month, PMI brought incarcerated fathers and their children together for the 7th annual Returning Hearts Celebration at La Isleta Correction Center. For one Saturday morning in October, kids and dads got to play games, share snacks, and experience a small taste of family life with no bars to separate them. More than one observer was brought to tears watching the events unfold. Some inmates say these few hours of being a real-life dad will help them press on toward a brighter future.



Florida-based Hope Seeds International assembled special seed packs for 50 Agape mission partners and delivered them right to our hangar this summer. From there, the special packages intended to combat food insecurity were flown to Haiti and the Dominican Republic on one of our planes. Hope Seeds has delivered over 10 million seed packets in more than 60 countries since they were founded in 1999. The seed packs are customized to fit regional climate and growing conditions wherever they're sent, and every seed pack comes with a Gospel tract in the recipient's native language.



Haitian-born missionary Killick Aristide had the great privilege of baptizing nine new believers in Jacmel last month. Growing up in family that counted a voodoo priest among its numbers, Killick was saved in high school when missionaries from Indiana brought VBS to his community. He and his wife, Nehemie, moved to Colorado for several years before they were called to serve the Lord in Haiti. The portable baptistry they now use was donated by their sending church in Colorado. It was delivered aboard Agape's Embraer 110 aircraft this past summer.

JUSKA AND JONA LAZARRE: BRINGING HOME GOD'S VISION FOR HAITI

Counting down to the start of classes at their brand-new school on September 11, 2023, God's Vision for Haiti (GVFH) missionaries Juska and Jona Lazarre were optimistic. Opening GVFH Academy was an exciting milestone for a growing campus near Les Cayes that already included a ministry center, a mission house, and several athletic fields. Finishing the first phase of school construction in time for students would stretch the 14-year-old organization's resources, but the entire GVFH team had been praying and believing everything would come together in time.

When the doors opened for those first students last month, it was immediately clear that their prayers had been answered. At exactly 8:00 a.m., as is the law in Haiti, that nation's flag was raised and school was officially in session. Though the student body is mostly made up of foster children – an area of emphasis for GVFH – there are plans to increase enrolment well beyond this first group. Eventually the Academy will offer instruction in 16 classrooms, welcoming several hundred learners from kindergarten to senior high school.

The process to grow the school will be incremental, as other parts of the God's Vision for Haiti campus are expanded. A few weeks after classes began at the Academy, a new kitchen was opened in the existing ministry center. Next up on the GVFH master plan is a community medical clinic.

Juska Lazarre left southern Haiti as a 10-year-old boy, joining his family to seek a better life in America. He grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he eventually met his wife. Jona was from Haiti's north coast, far from where her husband was born, and the two naturalized American citizens acknowledge the divine appointment of their Michigan meeting. "Our hometowns are so far apart that the odds of the two of us meeting in Haiti are slim to none," Juska would write. "But God arranged our miraculous union and called us to a greater purpose for His glory."

That call came in 2005, when the young couple felt led to return to their native country as missionaries. They want to bring healing to orphans without intact families – and to intact families without the hope of Christ. Their prayer is that every



Haitian child will grow up in a stable Christian household.

"If we want a better Haiti, we have to invest in the future," Jona told Agape recently. "We have to raise kids according to the Bible. We have to show them from a young age to love their country, to see the possibilities and think outside the box."

As to what the future holds for God's Vision for Haiti, Juska Lazarre points to the four pillars of their ministry for clues: foster care, education and skills training, health and wellness, and spiritual formation. Through a biblical approach to each of those pillars, the Lazarrs hope to instill the hope of Jesus and the hope for a better life into every Academy student and into the surrounding community. "It's impossible to dream when you have no hope," Juska said.



Scan this code to read more about Juska and Jona Lazarre and their experience growing up in America.

MEDICAL MISSIONS

ISABEL WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIPS TO FUND NURSES

Agape supporters and volunteers Pete and Isabel Williams are passionate about improving lives through better access to healthcare. An Agape administered scholarship fund honoring Isabel's 50-year nursing career was established last year to make annual awards to deserving medical missions in Haiti.

This year's recipients are Living Stones: Vilaj Ansanm and Hope for Haiti.

Living Stones is a big part of the community in Jeremie (in fact, Vilaj Ansanm means "community" in the local dialect) committed to keeping Haitian children in Haitian families.

The scholarship funds will provide personal home visits from a pediatric nurse to vulnerable babies and their caregivers. "This award has also allowed us to supply our incredible pediatric nurse with another year of a generous salary during a hard time in Haiti," the Living Stones team told us.

Hope for Haiti's Linda Thélémaque reports that this year's grant will help fund a student nurse at the Infirmary Saint Etienne in Les Cayes. "Adding an additional nurse intern will help our clinic increase its capacity to see patients," Linda told us. Hope for Haiti is also excited that this year's award will help a nursing student

get valuable training in a high-quality clinic with an experienced staff.



GOING THE SECOND MILE FOR BABIES

More than 100 families came to one of two Second Mile Haiti birthing centers in northern Haiti last month for the biggest day of their lives: the birth of a child. The Second Mile team of 11 midwives, nine nurses, and a lot of helping hands served a total of 102 families during September 2023.

IMPROVING THE ODDS AGAINST BREAST CANCER FOR HAITIAN WOMEN

Because there are no regular screening programs in place, women in Haiti rarely survive metastatic breast cancer. "We have treated women as young as 27 and as old as 91," medical anthropologist Bette Gebrian told us recently. "Unfortunately, by the time women know they have cancer, it's usually too late."

At Grand'Anse Health and Development Association (GAHDA) in Jeremie, Executive Director and Registered Nurse Gebrian is working to change that through education, advocacy, and improving treatment options. She recently gathered a group of 300 volunteers to raise awareness and teach self-exams. In a nation of more than 11 million people, it may only be a drop in the bucket – but every single drop matters.

Bette explained that it's a double tragedy when a woman with children is diagnosed. "When a mother dies in Haiti, the children become even more vulnerable," she said. "Many of them don't survive long."

Even simple self-screening techniques such as using a mirror to spot a lump are difficult in Haiti because many households don't have mirrors. Gebrian and her team have built small mirrors and handed them out to local women. It's a start, but with no national breast cancer screening or educational programs in Haiti, Bette says that time is of the essence if she and her team are going to save lives.

GAHDA is actively looking for individuals and groups to help in the effort to curb preventable deaths in Haiti. "We strongly believe that this work is equally beneficial for the donor, be it a physician's time, a nurse's skill, a translator's kind words, or a donation from afar," the GAHDA website says. If you'd like to help, visit GAHDA.org/contact.

Agape Flights is honored to serve Bette Gebrian and GAHDA with timely deliveries of biopsy needles, formalin for preserving tissue samples, and other clinical supplies.

WELCOME, NEW AGAPE STAFF!



Todd Bartley, Director of Financial Services. Todd and his wife, Megan, came to Florida from Michigan in 2007. They're busy parents of three sons, ages 23, 20, and 17, and they are the humans to two dogs and one cat. Todd is an Edler at CenterPointe Christian Church in Venice, where he also serves on the Finance leadership team. Hailing from Port Huron, Michigan, on the shores of the Great Lakes near the U.S./Canada border, Todd is happy to be living near the Gulf of Mexico. He came to Agape Flights after 25 years in banking. This time of year, Todd's weekends include golf, watching college football, and working around the house.



Haley Greene, Communications and Content Coordinator. A recent Communications graduate of Liberty University, Haley has an instinct for news and a heart for storytelling. She's passionate about using video to tell stories – about Agape Flights and about our mission partners. Haley was part of the Agape team that traveled to Honduras last month. She's eager to visit each of the countries served by Agape Flights and to bring missionary stories to life in future editions of Flightline – and to a computer, tablet, or smartphone near you.



FIVE DECADES OF MINISTRY

Congratulations to Agape Flights CEO Allen Speer for 50 years of active ministry. 50 years ago this month, Immanuel Baptist Church of Metropolis, Illinois, issued a license to a young man who was not yet old enough to drive. Following in the footsteps of his Bible-preaching father, Dee T. Speer, Allen was called to the pulpit at the age of 15 and was officially licensed as a minister on October 31, 1973. Allen spent decades serving churches in the Midwest before taking the helm at Agape Flights in 2011. He has since served several churches in southwest Florida as interim pastor and even today can often be found in the pulpit sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the United States and the Caribbean.



SPREADING OUR WINGS

August 24 was a special day for mission partners on the south coast of Haiti, as Agape Flights conducted its first-ever scheduled delivery flight into Jacmel Airport. For several missionaries in the Jacmel area, the new twice-monthly service will save a daylong roundtrip to and from Les Cayes – leaving more time and resources to do the work God has called them to do. Left to right in the photo are Agape pilots Greg Haman and Steve Koch, missionaries Andy Faller, Matthew Smith, and Matt Prichard.



CHASE-ING A DREAM

Agape mechanic and private pilot Chase Linde just passed his instrument pilot written exam and has started instrument flight training. Please pray that this busy aircraft mechanic and father of three will find the time for all this flying and studying! After he gets his instrument rating, Chase hopes to move on to the multi-engine training that will get him one step closer to the flight deck.

GIVING UPDATE

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

With Expansion an Operational Necessity, We're Praying for a Lift and not a Shift

If there's a single factor that drives our operation, it's the amount of cargo on our hangar floor, waiting to be flown to the mission field. Our hangar boss, Bruce Bosco, knows the weight of that cargo at any moment. When the number creeps toward double digits (as in, 10,000 pounds), Bruce gets cranky.

We prefer a happy Bruce, and so do our mission partners. No one in Haiti or the Dominican Republic can use a solar panel that's stacked on a pallet in our hangar. Bill and Teresa Landers, of Eleuthera Bible Mission in the Bahamas, will tell you they can't teach from textbooks they haven't yet received.

What does it take to keep Bruce happy? We've learned to do the math. Our larger plane, the Embraer 110, can haul about 3,000 pounds from Florida to the northern Caribbean. The Reims Cessna F406 can lift about a ton. Anything more than 5,000 pounds in the hangar makes Bruce unhappy.

We all want our building to look more like an airplane hangar than a warehouse – and until recently, that was usually the case. In normal times, flying weekly mission flights and adding an extra trip was occasionally sufficient to keep the cargo flowing from our receiving dock to our mission partners. But these are not normal times.

Since the assassination of Haiti's president two years ago, parts of Port au Prince have been like a war zone. Thousands of residents have fled to safer places like Les Cayes, Jeremie, Jacmel, and Cap Haitien. Our mission partners in those areas are having to quickly scale up feeding centers, schools, and medical clinics. Most can't risk traveling to Port au Prince for

supplies, so they've turned to us.

That's one reason we've committed to a second mission flight every week for at least the next 120 days. Mission partners are asking us to do more – and, by faith, we have said yes. That's why we're here. We listen. We respond. We deliver. That's our DNA.

This steady growth in our cargo needs for existing mission partners isn't likely to slow. Plus, we've had a significant response from missionaries in Honduras as we consider our first-ever scheduled service to Central America. At some point soon, it just won't be possible to process all this cargo in the same space where we maintain two highly sophisticated turboprops.

And that's why we're going to build a new hangar and maintenance facility. We have to. Like everything we do, we'll need your partnership in this new endeavor.

We're asking Agape's financial supporters to help us build a new hangar at the same time we're operating an increased flight schedule. Rather than making a change in giving from daily operations to the construction project, we're asking the Lord to encourage and equip our donors to support *both projects* where they can; to increase their giving so it includes both areas of need.

In short, we're asking for a lift and not a shift.

Will you prayerfully consider how you can be a part of our new hangar project – as you continue to support our weekly mission flight schedule? As we move toward the end of 2023 and then on to tax season in the new year, here are some creative ways you might make your giving go farther in the months ahead:

- Ask if your employer offers a gift-matching program.
- Talk to your retirement planner about a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).
- If you're at least 72, your tax advisor can explain how a QCD might count toward this year's required minimum distribution (RMD).
- You can also donate noncash assets such as stocks, mutual funds, or real estate.
- Finally, you can 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 under the DONATE button. You can also call us at 941-488-0990 or email Giving@AgapeFlights.com.

Thank you for helping us go and grow so others will know.



Bruce Bosco shows the cargo holding area to a hangar visitor

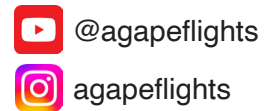
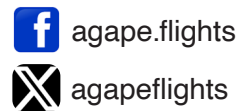


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AGAPE FLIGHTS DELIVERS LOVE FOR MISSION-HAITI



This couple was one of 14 recently married at the Mission-Haiti compound. Weddings are expensive in Haiti and many committed couples don't marry because they can't afford it. Together these 14 couples have 36 children and a total of 174 years of committed relationship. Agape Flights was honored to deliver some of the wedding attire for this great event!

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