

**"GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES,
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD."
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18**



WELLS OF RESILIENCE: A MISSION TO CHANGE LIVES AMIDST PERIL

"Even in the darkest hours, God is changing the hearts of the people of Haiti." This heartfelt statement from Nicky Runk, of Global Outreach Haiti, reflects a spirit of thankfulness that permeates his mission. Nicky and his wife Kristie are currently in the United States navigating the challenges posed by riots and gang violence in Haiti. Despite the distance, their hearts are firmly anchored in the communities they serve.



Every day, Nicky and Kristie work tirelessly, coordinating with their Haitian partners to ensure that essential supplies reach those in need. Their mission focuses on building wells in hard-to-reach areas, providing clean water and sharing the message of Christ wherever they are welcomed. This calling has become a source of hope and strength, even as the situation in Haiti grows more precarious.

Last year, the couple faced a daunting challenge when they had to evacuate their compound due to gang violence. Many would see this as a reason for despair, but the Runks have chosen a different path. "Why would we be discouraged when we can still fulfill our calling and help the people of Haiti?" Nicky asks with conviction. This unwavering resolve is a testament to their faith and commitment, and a reminder of the blessings that still exist amid hardship.

Instead of focusing on what they've lost or the dangers that loom, the Runks celebrate the relationships they've built,

the lives they've touched, and the faith that sustains them. "God never called us to an easy life, but boy did He call us to a fulfilling one," Nicky says, his eyes reflecting a deep appreciation for the opportunities to serve.

Their attitude of gratitude extends to how they approach their work. By collaborating closely with local leaders, Nicky and Kristie ensure that their initiatives align with the genuine needs of the communities. This grassroots approach not only amplifies their impact but also empowers Haitians to take personal pride in their progress.

As they continue to navigate the challenges from afar, the Runks remain dedicated to spreading hope and inspiration. They share stories of resilience and community, reminding supporters that even in the most difficult times, there are countless reasons to be thankful. Nicky and Kristie shine as beacons of hope, proving that a heart filled with thankfulness can illuminate even the darkest paths. Their journey serves as a powerful reminder that gratitude can transform adversity into opportunities for growth and healing.



To give or connect with the Runk's mission please visit:

www.RunkFamilyHaiti.com

FROM THE CEO



Allen Speer CEO

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AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

IT'S ALMOST THANKSGIVING . . . MY FAVORITE. When it comes to holidays, this one tops 'em all, that is my opinion. I prefer it because it is so healthy, so encouraging, so valuable . . . and so understated. I prefer it because there are no jingles to sing, commercials to endure, gifts to buy, places to go, or meetings to attend—just be thankful. Just look up, look around, look within, and say, "Thank you, Lord."

As you read this edition of Flightline, let's begin early with our Thanksgiving this year. Maybe these few thoughts will stimulate you to give God your thanks in greater abundance.

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

Looking up . . . thank You, Lord: for Your sovereign control over Agape Flights. Thank you for your gentle compassion in our challenges, for Your consistent faithfulness through our highs and lows, for Your grace, and for Your love that holds us close.

Thank You, Lord, for all You are, all You do, and all You say.

Looking around . . . thank You, Lord: for the Agape Flights family, so affirming, so enjoyable, for our marvelous supporting churches and individual donors, so many gifted and loving servants, our volunteer crew, for our strong heritage, our founders, Keith and Clara Starkey, who trusted God for the impossible, and for our mission partners throughout the nations of the Caribbean. Indeed, when I look around I cannot help but to be grateful!

Thank You, Lord, for Your provision in such variety and incredible abundance.

Looking within . . . thank You, Lord: for eyes that see your handiwork in my co-workers, for ears that receive the praises of your people surrounding us, for the special stimulation of taste and touch (I love to eat), for hands to work with and legs to walk with, for a sense of humor that brings healing and hope, for the sheer delight of knowing and walking with You!

On a personal note, Jennifer and I will be spending this Thanksgiving with much of our family at my son's home near Austin, Texas. Almost a year ago, I was diagnosed with HCC, a form of liver cancer. However, thanks be to God, I sit at my computer this day without a trace of liver cancer. I received no treatment for my cancer, the fact is that my three tumors began to shrink until finally they were gone. Indeed, I am grateful!

I challenge you to join me in this process of looking up, looking around and looking within and I think you will soon discover an attitude of gratitude rising up within you!

Allen T. Speer, CEO



Last month, we were blessed to host “Hope from Above Ministries” as they conducted an engine swap on their new airplane. This ministry played a crucial role when our Cessna F406 was stranded in Bombardopolis, Haiti. They not only stored our plane but also facilitated repairs, enabling us to safely return it to our hangar in Venice for permanent repairs. Hope from Above’s services are vital in Haiti, providing medical transportation throughout the mountainous regions to ensure that more families receive the care they need in times of crisis. Their dedication has significantly impacted maternal and infant health in the area. Thanks to their efforts, access to medical care for pregnant women has improved dramatically, leading to a remarkable increase in birth rates and a sharp decline in infant mortality. We are grateful for the partnership and support of Hope from Above, which allows us to continue our mission of serving the communities in Haiti. Together, we are making a difference.

2024 AGAPE FLIGHTS MISSIONARY ENCOURAGEMENT TRIP

I was 15 years old when I first visited Eleuthera, and my memories of the island have always been brilliant hues of blue water, talcum-powdered sand, and delicious seafood. But those memories were replaced with new ones last August when our

Agape team went on a trip to visit Bill and Teresa Landers of Eleuthera Bible Training Center. It was a wake-up call to say the least; I did not expect the level of poverty faced by those living on the “other side” of this beautiful island’s reality. The contrast was a lot for me to take in. But God’s light has a way of surpassing darkness, and in the short time we were there I got to witness His love for the hurting. Some of us went with Teresa to visit a family, where she took provisions and spent time pouring Christ’s love into their souls. Little acts of kindness are a natural part of Teresa’s day, like when she stopped our van by the side of the road to ask a man she knew if he had found a job. We could tell these thoughtful touches meant a lot to those she came across as their appreciation of her was evident. I left Eleuthera this time with a different kind of “happy.” I left with a joy-filled heart rooted in witnessing Teresa live out Proverbs 31:20, “She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.”



SONIA REHDER
MISSIONARY CARE COORDINATOR



TODD BARTLEY
FINANCE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on my time with Bill and Theresa Landers in the Bahamas, three main themes stand out to me. First, I was deeply reminded of the abundant blessings we have in the United States. It’s easy to overlook our access to housing, food, and essential services. Meanwhile, many around the world face overwhelming poverty, making it hard not to feel like just a drop in the bucket when considering how to help. The second theme is generosity. The Bible speaks extensively about giving—over 2,300 verses emphasize this call. We’re invited to be generous not just with our finances, but also with our time and talents. When we embrace this spirit of generosity, we can begin to fill the bucket of need around us. Proverbs 11:25 reminds us, “a generous person will prosper,” showing that when we refresh others, we find our own hearts refreshed in return. Finally, I found so much joy in the children we met in the Bahamas. There was always a sense of happiness in their way. Giving you a smile when you do a small gesture, a willingness to play and have fun even in the depths of poverty, a genuineness that is not often found. My prayer today and every day is: Thank you God for the blessings you have provided for me. Help me to be a steward of your blessings and remind me that all blessings come through you. Help me to live generously. Help strengthen my faith in you and finally, help me love my neighbor as myself.

ISABEL WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The [Isabel Williams Scholarship](#), made possible through the generosity of Pete and Isabel Williams, embodies a profound commitment to healthcare and community service. Agape Flights is proud to offer this scholarship in support of affiliated missionaries dedicated to medical-related ministries. This initiative honors Isabel Williams' remarkable 50-year nursing career and her enduring passion for enhancing the healthcare needs of those served by Agape's missionaries. By providing financial assistance to individuals engaged in these vital efforts, the Isabel Williams Medical Fund aims to empower healthcare professionals to continue Isabel's legacy of service and care. Through this scholarship, we aspire to inspire future leaders in medical ministry, ensuring that the spirit of service and dedication remains alive and thriving.

BETTE GEBRIAN- GRAND'ANSE HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Bette Gebrian, a recipient of the Isabel Williams Scholarship, is making a significant impact as the executive director of the [Grand'Anse Health and Development Association \(GAHDA\)](#). With the scholarship funds, she plans to upgrade the failing battery inverter power system for the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Nursing School in Jérémie, Haiti. This upgrade is essential for ensuring reliable electricity, vital for both education and healthcare services. Bette envisions a community where residents can easily access crucial health and development services. She emphasizes collaboration between local populations and service providers to comprehensively address everyone's needs. Since its establishment in 1992, the nursing school has dedicated itself to training skilled professionals. Under Sister Adeline Louissant's leadership since 2009, the school has flourished, currently enrolling over 170 students, with 71 set to graduate this year. The power system upgrade will support educational efforts at the nursing school and enhance the quality of care in the region. Bette's vision embodies the core values of the Isabel Williams Scholarship, demonstrating how dedicated leadership can transform communities for the better. Her work is a testament to the impact of grassroots initiatives in improving health and education.



NICAISE AVIGNON- COMMUNITIES ORGANIZING FOR HAITIAN ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Nicaise and Madeleine Avignon, recipients of the Isabel Williams Scholarship, are advancing community health through their organization, [Communities Organizing for Haitian Engagement and Development \(COFHED\)](#). This Haitian-led initiative envisions a Haiti where rural citizens are empowered to effect change. With scholarship funds, COFHED will support the salary of a community healthcare nurse, purchase essential medications, and address the dietary needs of infants and young children at risk of malnutrition. This support is vital in a country with limited access to healthcare and proper nutrition. Community nurses conduct door-to-door visits to assess needs and provide care, ensuring that health interventions reach those who may be overlooked, particularly in rural areas. By investing in community healthcare, Nicaise and Madeleine are fostering healthier, more resilient communities. Their work embodies the spirit of the Isabel Williams Scholarship, aimed at empowering individuals dedicated to sustainable change in Haiti. Through COFHED, they are promoting a culture of health and self-reliance, demonstrating that local leadership is essential for a brighter future. Nicaise and Madeleine's commitment to their community showcases the transformative power of grassroots initiatives.



BETHANY PERISSIEN- MISSION HAITI - LSF MEDICAL CLINIC

We are thrilled to announce Bethany Perissien of Mission Haiti as one of this year's winners of the Isabel Williams Scholarship. Thanks to our generous donors, we are proud to honor a third recipient, reinforcing our commitment to those making a difference in their communities. Bethany leads a vital mission in Gaspard, Haiti, where the [LSF Medical Clinic](#) has provided essential services for five years. This clinic focuses on healthcare and nutritional support for nursing-age infants, offering free formula and medical care to the most vulnerable. In a region with limited access to healthcare, the LSF Medical Clinic serves as a beacon of hope. When a nursing child falls ill, they can see a doctor at no cost, alleviating financial burdens for families. This holistic approach not only enhances the health of individual children but also strengthens the community as a whole. Bethany's unwavering dedication to improving the lives of infants and their families truly embodies the spirit of the Isabel Williams Scholarship. Her tireless work underscores the importance of accessible healthcare and nutrition, paving the way for healthier futures.



FROM THE FLIGHTDECK

GREG HAMAN- DIRECTOR OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS

As an Agape Flights pilot, I regularly get the opportunity to see God's hand of blessing on the missionary families we serve, often through the mail and supplies that we are flying to them every week. Recently, I had the opportunity to bless the Starkey family, serving with Reciprocal Ministries International (RMI) in Santiago, Dominican Republic, with their beloved family dog, Ressie. The Starkey family spent years serving with RMI at their Les Cayes, Haiti location and over the last year or so have been in the process of launching a new RMI program based in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Among the family's most precious processions that we transported from their old home in Les Cayes to their new home in Santiago was their sweet Ressie. It brought me so much gratification to see the family reunited with their precious, four legged family member, and to see the joy on all their faces after being apart from her for over a year while they were in the transition process between countries. Welcome to the Dominican Republic, Ressie!



HANGAR HAPPENINGS



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
INCREDIBLE DEDICATION
AND HARD WORK.
YOUR EFFORTS MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!



HURRICANE MILTON CLEANUP



PRAISE AND PRAYERS

ONE CHRIST WON CITY “JUST JESUS” EVENT



The One Christ Won City (OCWC) “Just Jesus” event was a wonderful celebration of 15 years of dedicated service in Venice, where Agape Flights is headquartered. This gathering united Christian believers from various backgrounds, all focused on spreading love and hope in the community. Attendees enjoyed uplifting music, inspiring testimonies, and powerful messages centered around Christ’s love. All proceeds raised by the event were generously donated to Agape Flights. We are grateful for OCWC’s generosity and commitment to our mission. Together, we continue to shine a light on the love of Christ in our city and beyond.

MISSIONARY THANKSGIVING DINNER PROJECT

As Thanksgiving approaches, our Agape Flights community has come together for the Missionary Thanksgiving Dinner Project, supporting over 150 missionary families across the Caribbean. Each box is filled with essential ingredients for a festive meal, including turkey, cornbread mix, vegetables, stuffing, yams, and, of course, whipped cream and marshmallows—always a favorite among our missionary kids. For families in the Dominican Republic, where shipping turkeys isn’t possible, we provide a monetary stipend to help them buy their holiday meal locally. This ensures that everyone can celebrate in their own special way. In the week leading up to Thanksgiving, our Agape staff carefully packs boxes that have been decorated with inspiring messages from Venice Christian School students—a beautiful reminder to our missionaries that they are supported and appreciated from afar. We are beyond thankful to Regulator Marine for sponsoring this Thanksgiving flight once again. This project thrives because of community generosity, and we are deeply grateful for every contribution. Together, we will spread love and connection this holiday season.

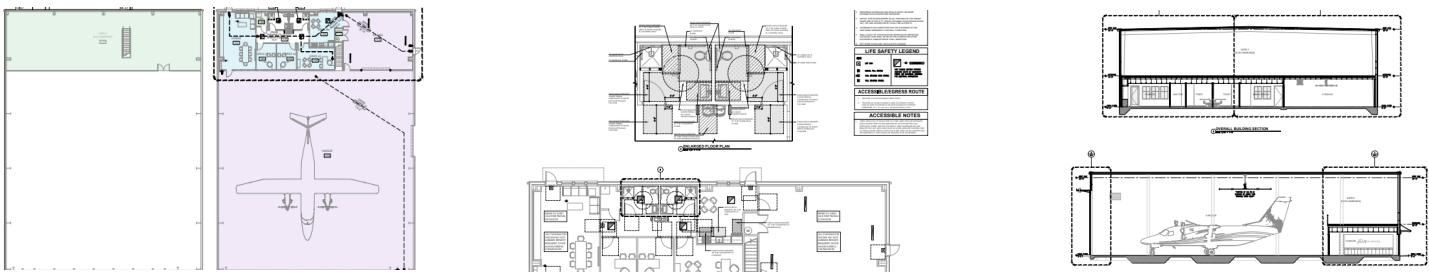


PRAYER REQUESTS

One of our missionary partners, Nick Troutt, is navigating a challenging transition after losing his leg in an accident. In a recent update, he shared his struggles with balance and the shift from independence to dependence. Through all of this, he remains grateful for the strength and mercy he still experiences. We pray for comfort and clarity as he adapts to this new reality. We pray God renews his purpose in his mission. Let us come together in lifting Nick up in prayer, asking for support in his journey toward both emotional and physical healing.



As we begin to embark on the process of building our new hangar, we ask for your prayers. This project is vital for our mission, and we are seeking God’s guidance every step of the way. We pray for a smooth and efficient building process, that all involved would work together harmoniously, and that the project is completed with excellence. May God provide us with wisdom in decision-making and favor with contractors and suppliers. We trust in His perfect timing and ask for His hand to be upon every detail. Thank you for joining us in prayer as we take this significant step forward in our mission!



GIVING UPDATE

THE POWER OF THANKFULNESS – THE TIE THAT BINDS US TOGETHER IN KINGDOM MINISTRY

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you were also called in one body; and be thankful.” — Colossians 3:14-15

At Agape Flights, we love to say **Thank You!** There are countless reasons and occasions to express our gratitude. In this issue of Flightline alone, you'll find:


- Some of the missionaries we are thankful to partner with and the amazing work they do.
- This year's recipients of the Isabel Williams Medical Fund Scholarship. We are thankful for this wonderful partnership between donors and mission partners that advances healthcare in the Caribbean.
- Insights from staff members who participated in the encouragement trip to the island of Eleuthera, Bahamas, sharing their thankfulness for the opportunity to work alongside mission partners.
- Our volunteer crew and a Halftime-themed appreciation event. We are especially thankful for these individuals who generously donate their time to sort mail, weigh and label cargo boxes, load the planes, and support our operations in many ways.



We are particularly grateful for our founders, Keith and Clara Starkey, who trusted in God's faithfulness and created a culture of thankfulness woven into our framework and organizational values. Though both have gone on to their heavenly reward, we continue to honor the legacy of love they left behind. After witnessing the devastating poverty in Haiti and falling in love with its people, Keith and Clara envisioned a world where missionaries would never lack the resources to share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. In 1980 they stepped out in faith, mortgaged their home, purchased Agape's first plane, and began flying essential supplies to a few missionaries in Haiti. They chose "Agape," the Greek word for God's unconditional love, to represent the core of this Christian aviation ministry. This roughly translates Agape Flights to mean "God's Love Flights." Every week, our aircraft depart from the Agape Flights hangar in Venice, Florida, transporting a variety of necessary and relied upon supplies for our missionary partners so they can be equipped to actively serve out their calling.



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




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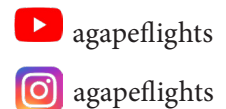
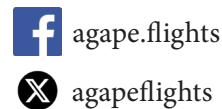


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CELEBRATE WITH US LIKE IT'S 1980!

AGAPE FLIGHTS
PRESENTS...

BACK TO THE FUTURE
45 YEARS OF LOVE IN ACTION

PIE IN THE SKY 2025

100 AIRPORT AVE E, VENICE FLORIDA 34285 **AGAPEFLIGHTS.COM** **941.488.0990**

Mark your calendar for our Pie in the Sky open hangar event on March 1st, 2025 from 11:00AM - 2:00PM. Enjoy EPIC pizza, RAD dessert pie, a GNARLY fun zone, a TOTALLY GREAT live auction, and more! It's sure to be a NEATO time as we go Back to the Future to celebrate Agape's 45 years of love in action. We can't wait to see you there!

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