

# FLIGHTLINE

A PUBLICATION OF AGAPE FLIGHTS

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

**"CONSIDER IT PURE JOY, MY BROTHERS, WHENEVER YOU FACE TRIALS OF MANY KINDS"**  
**-JAMES 1:2**



## CUBA: SHINING FOR CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

SONIA REHDER- MISSIONARY CARE COORDINATOR



It's been several weeks, but thoughts of my trip to Cuba remain fresh in my mind, as if it were yesterday. Is it because of the unbelievably deplorable living conditions I witnessed? The stories that left me bewildered and wondering how people are even able to survive? These and other atrocities I observed would certainly contribute to my difficulty

in letting go, but that's not why I cannot get Cuba out of my mind. You see, I was blessed to witness something truly special that is only possible with God's abounding mercy and grace. I witnessed an intermingling of joy and sorrow where, with my naked eye, it was hard to distinguish one separate from the other. It's hard to express really, but I saw it in the faces of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have "nothing" yet have "everything" because they have the Lord Jesus Christ. He is theirs and they are His and no one can snatch them out of His loving hands. They have discovered the truth that HE is enough.

I was reminded of many valuable lessons in the few days spent with these beautiful souls. One was from a pastor who prayed for our Agape team. I was overcome when he asked

God to provide for our needs. His heartfelt prayer shook me and my mind shouted, "I have no needs! How can I say I have needs when I see you all struggling to have your basic needs met? Yet, with all your lack, you are praying for me?" His unselfish prayer stirred my heart and reminded me to never take God's goodness for granted and to keep praying for those less fortunate.

Many scriptures come to mind when I think of the dear people I was blessed to meet, but this one really stands out: "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies." (2 Cor. 4:8-10, ESV). Their affliction is real.

It is deep. Where is their hope of escape? It would be so easy to fall into despair. But the joy that I saw reflected in their eyes and their broad, sweet smiles told me of an inner strength that keeps them from being broken to the point of hopelessness. That strength comes from the great treasure held within their hearts - the gospel of Jesus Christ - that birthed eternal hope and helps them to survive earthly struggles. Lord, I pray, please bless and protect them all!



## FROM THE CEO



Allen Speer CEO

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### A JOYFUL HEART . . . IT'S GOOD MEDICINE!

*"When troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing" (James 1:2-4).*

Life is full of experiences; some tragic, others mysterious, and many just plain funny. Every day brings something that makes me smile. Laughter and joy are powerful therapy, and I'm thankful that God so generously provides this divine medicine.

Even religious moments can be unintentionally humorous. I recall a time when an elderly church member, Miss Clara, returned late to the worship service through the side door after a restroom break. Unknowingly, a long trail of toilet paper followed her across the front of the sanctuary. The Worship Choir began giggling, and when I turned to see the source, I couldn't help but laugh too. When she reached her seat, I gently let her know something was "following her." She chuckled, rolled it up, and placed it in her purse, saying, "All I want is goodness and mercy to follow me all the days of my life!"

Recently, I returned to Cuba with the Agape Staff team. On Sunday morning, we visited New Jerusalem Baptist Church and joined their new believers' connection class. Witnessing the joy of 20 new converts was refreshing. Later in the worship service, I was once again moved by the sacrificial generosity of believers joyfully giving from their limited resources. Cuba is not an easy place to live, but that day God reminded me of how troubles can bring joy.

The enemy whispers lies like, "This is too hard," or "I can't cope." But God's Word tells a different story: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13), and "Take heart, because I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). When we focus on God's truth, fear fades and joy grows.

God calls us not just to endure trials, but to rejoice in them. Why? Because enduring them grows our faith and makes us spiritually mature. Who wouldn't want that?

As you read this edition of Flightline, I pray you're moved to continued prayer for Agape Flights. Your support blesses our mission partners across the Caribbean.

Thank you, and let the joy begin!

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)*

Allen T. Speer, CEO



God is moving powerfully in Haiti, and Roger & Margaret Clark of New Life Mission are witnessing His faithfulness firsthand. A significant moment of joy came just two weeks ago when the New Life Church in Lazile completed the roof on its new building. Since the 2021 earthquake destroyed their original structure, the congregation had been gathering under tarps and sticks. Now, they have a proper place to worship and grow. Lazile, a mountain town five hours from Port-au-Prince, has seen a population surge as people flee the capital's violence. The town's population has more than doubled in the past

year, bringing with it increased need, and great opportunity. The church in Lazile now stands at the center of a growing mission field, ready to share the saving love of Christ with newcomers seeking hope and stability. Despite rising violence and spiritual darkness across the nation, the church of Jesus Christ is standing firm. As Matthew 16:18 reminds us, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." The Clarks have seen both visible and spiritual battles intensify during their 43 years in Haiti, but God's church endures. Today, all seven New Life Churches continue their ministry, even as four operate in gang-controlled areas. The challenges are great, but so is the harvest. Pray for boldness, protection, and a continued outpouring of God's Spirit as the Gospel goes forth in Haiti.

Recently, we received a beautiful message from Krista and Marc Germeil, and it moved us deeply. They shared the story of a sweet little boy in their community who just turned one. That may sound ordinary, but his first birthday is truly a miracle. After losing his mama at only four months old, his future was uncertain. In many cases, children in his situation are abandoned to orphanages. But not this time. Because of the formula shipped through Agape Flights, this precious boy was able to stay with his family; loved, nurtured, and thriving right where he belongs. Krista wrote: *"It takes a village to raise a precious child... and we are so glad that you are a part of ours."* We're humbled and honored to be a small part of the Germeils' ministry. Krista and Marc are on the ground every day, helping the next generation find hope and purpose in God through discipleship, education, and community care. The real heroes are those holding these babies, teaching the teens, praying with the hurting, and pointing people to Christ. To Krista, Marc, and your entire team, thank you for letting us serve alongside you. This story is why we do what we do.



Cassidy Marechal, co-founder of Klere Haiti alongside her husband Frantzy, continues to walk, both literally and figuratively, with Haitian families. Together, they trek up hills, cross canals, and climb mountainsides to visit families in their homes. These home visits remain Cassidy's favorite part of the work. After long days behind a computer managing newsletters, fundraising, and finances, these visits remind her why they began Klere in the first place. On one visit, Cassidy and Frantzy met a new Klere mom, while nearby sat another mother who had been part of the program since its very first year. Cassidy gave the new mom a macrame bracelet and a photo made by her son. Frantzy smiled as he noticed the familiar face watching from the side. "You remember this?"

he said. "We haven't changed anything." That little boy, once just starting out in Klere, is now a young man, riding a motorcycle to support his family and preparing to study plumbing. His mother smiled warmly and said she prays God will continue to grow Klere so that it can bless many more. Her smile alone felt like the greatest encouragement. Klere is no longer just a program, it has become woven into the very fabric of these families' lives.

# ISABEL WILLIAMS MEDICAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

*The Isabel Williams Medical Fund Scholarship honors Isabel Williams' 50-year nursing career and her deep commitment to compassionate healthcare. This scholarship supports efforts to meet the medical needs of people served by Agape Flights' affiliated missionaries.*

## REAL HOPE FOR HAITI, LORELL MOISE, PORT-AU-PRINCE

This year, the Isabel Williams Scholarship proudly honors Lorell Moise of Real Hope for Haiti, based in Port-au-Prince. Lorell is the heart behind Formula for Hope: Strengthening Families, a ministry that reaches some of Haiti's most vulnerable: infants who have lost their mothers or whose mothers are unable to breastfeed due to illness or crisis. These tiny lives face overwhelming odds: malnutrition, illness, and the deep emotional trauma that comes from maternal loss or separation. But through Formula for Hope, Lorell and her team offer more than just physical nourishment; they offer love, dignity,



and the chance to thrive. With the help of the scholarship, Formula for Hope will provide 3 to 4 months of life-saving formula for 19 at-risk infants. But this program goes far beyond bottles. Caregivers receive hygiene education, the babies are closely monitored for healthy growth and motor development, and families are surrounded with spiritual and emotional support. Lorell sees each child not as a number, but as a precious life full of potential. In a place where resources are scarce and suffering is common, her work stands as a powerful reminder that hope is still alive. Thanks to Lorell and her team's compassion and tireless dedication, these children have a real chance, not just to survive, but to grow physically and emotionally strong. The Isabel Williams Scholarship celebrates leaders like Lorell, who embody grace in action. Her ministry is not just saving lives, it's restoring families, rebuilding hope, and honoring the God-given worth of every child.



## CHILDREN'S HOPE EDUCATIONAL NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM, REVEREND PIERRE VALDEMA, PORT-AU-PRINCE



The Isabel Williams Scholarship is honored to recognize Rev. Pierre Valdema, a devoted servant leader and the driving force behind the Children's Hope Educational Nutritional Program, known in Haiti as Programme Nutritionnel Educatif Espoir des Enfants. Located in the heart of Croix-des-Bouquets, this nonprofit health center is a place of refuge and healing for the 11,284 residents of this underserved commune. Rev. Valdema's vision is clear: to offer quality healthcare to the most vulnerable, those who simply cannot afford it. Under his compassionate leadership, the center provides far more than basic care. Services include gynecology-obstetrics, pediatrics, general medicine, psychology, pharmacy, and laboratory diagnostics- an extraordinary range for a region with so few resources. Families come not

only for medicine, but for dignity, comfort, and a listening ear. Thanks to the Isabel Williams Scholarship, the center will now be able to replace broken and outdated medical equipment, tools essential for delivering safe and effective care. With these improvements, the facility can serve even more patients with accuracy, compassion, and hope. Rev. Valdema's work is rooted in deep faith and a profound love for his people. His ministry is not just about treating illness; it's about restoring wholeness to individuals and communities who have been overlooked for too long. The Isabel Williams Scholarship celebrates Rev. Valdema's unwavering commitment to healing and justice in Haiti. His leadership exemplifies the heart of this award, serving with grace, humility, and relentless hope for a healthier, brighter future for all.



# FROM THE FLIGHTDECK

## GREG HAMAN- DIRECTOR OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS

As Director of Flight Operations, I am fortunate to witness countless moments of joy while out in the field, but one recent experience truly stood out. During a fall mission flight to Haiti, I was joined by Daniel Dietz, our Flight Ops Intern, for a trip that would leave a lasting impact. During our visit with one of our mission partner organizations, Jwa Timoun Yo, which fittingly translates to Children's Joy, we had the blessing of spending time with Kendy. He is the son of the mission partners who run the program. His face lit up when we invited him to sit in the cockpit, and he quietly shared his dream of becoming a pilot. Without hesitation, Daniel looked at him and said, "Start dreaming, I was in the same spot as a kid. If God calls you, He will make it happen."



The joy on Kendy's face reflected the joy I've come to see in so many of the people we serve. The smiles of our mission partners, the hope in the eyes of individuals like Kendy, and the growth of our pilots like Daniel all remind me why I do what I do. Our job isn't just about flying, it's about serving. Each takeoff and landing carries purpose. Whether we're encouraging the next generation or standing beside our mission partners, I consider it pure joy to be part of this calling. This is why we fly.

## HANGAR HAPPENINGS

### THANKSGIVING DINNER BOXES

### TURBINE WELD MISSION FLIGHT



### CUBA MISSIONARY ENCOURAGEMENT TRIP



### THANK YOU MARSHA FOR EIGHT INCREDIBLE YEARS OF SERVICE



After eight years of faithful service, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Marsha Pavliak, our longtime Finance Specialist and former Finance Director. Marsha has been a vital part of Agape Flights, and while we are excited for her as she steps into this next chapter, we will miss her more than words can express. Marsha, thank you for your unwavering commitment to financial excellence. Your diligence, professionalism, and integrity have laid a strong foundation that will continue to support Agape's mission for years to come. But beyond the spreadsheets and budgets, it's the person you are that leaves the greatest legacy. You showed up every day with a smile, a steady voice of reason, and a heart that looked out for those around you. Your quiet strength and consistent care have made a lasting impression on all of us. You've been more than a coworker, you've been a source of encouragement, wisdom, and support. As you enter this new season, please know that your impact here runs deep. We are truly blessed to have walked alongside you, and even more blessed to call you part of the Agape family. You will always have a home here at Agape. We pray for joy, favor, and abundant blessings on the road ahead. Thank you, Marsha, we can't wait to see what God has in store for this next season of life!

### JOIN US IN WELCOMING CRYSTAL MEEK TO THE AGAPE FAMILY!

Agape Flights is thrilled to welcome Crystal Meek to our team as our new Finance Specialist! With over 20 years of experience in accounting, Crystal brings a wealth of knowledge in bookkeeping, payroll, and tax preparation. Her expertise and dedication to excellence make her a perfect fit for our mission-driven organization. Crystal and her husband Jeff, who have been married for 25 wonderful years, recently relocated from southern Utah to sunny Florida. They have two daughters, Sydney and Addie, who are the center of their world. As Crystal steps into this new chapter with Agape, she's also enjoying life in Florida, especially spending time at the beach with her dog, Millie, diving into a good book, and making meaningful memories with her family. Crystal's professional background, combined with her warmth and strong values, align beautifully with Agape's heart for service and community. We are confident she will play a vital role in supporting our operations and ensuring financial stewardship as we continue to serve missionaries and ministries across the Caribbean. Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to Crystal! We are incredibly thankful and excited to have her as part of the Agape family. We look forward to all that God will do through her talents and heart in the seasons ahead.



### THANK YOU TO OUR FALL INTERN DANIEL DIETZ

This fall, we had the pleasure of welcoming Daniel Dietz as our Flight-Ops Intern at Agape Flights, and what a blessing he has been! From taking on co-pilot duties to turning wrenches in the hangar, Daniel jumped into every task with skill, humility, and heart. Daniel's life story is deeply rooted in faith, aviation, and service. Raised as a missionary kid in Europe and Mexico, he graduated from Moody Aviation in 2012. Since then, he and his wife, Dawn, along with their four children, have been living out their calling in Iowa. There, they founded Paraclete Aviation, a nonprofit bringing aviation and the Gospel into public schools. While working full-time at MidAmerican Aerospace since 2013, Daniel also served as a youth pastor from 2016 to 2022. He's amassed around 850 flight hours and holds ASEL, AMEL, Instrument, Commercial, and CFI ratings. A fun connection: Daniel attended Moody's A&P program with our own mechanic Chase Linde, making his time here a meaningful reunion as well! Daniel is now completing his final step toward officially earning his degree, and we are honored to have played a small role in that process. His dedication and servant's heart have left a lasting impact on our team. Thank you, Daniel, for everything you've brought to Agape Flights in this season!



### FINDING JOY IN THE JOURNEY: FAITH IN ACTION THROUGH AGAPE FLIGHTS

Throughout Agape Flights' 45-year history, we have experienced and overcome challenges with steadfast joy and faith. We have watched God expand our mission forward to deliver supplies, mail, and hope to missionaries serving in the Caribbean and are encouraged to continue well into the future.

We consider it pure joy that you choose to support our ministry. Because of you, vital Kingdom work continues despite challenges. Each takeoff represents faith in motion, choosing joy through trials, as Scripture encourages. Every delivery carries encouragement and connection through essentials such as, medical supplies, water filters, Bibles and teaching material, and sports equipment that sustain our missionary partners serving in difficult places.



Will you consider partnering with us in this joyful mission through year-end giving? Contributions made before December 31 not only extend hope and support to missionaries but may also maximize charitable tax deductions. Your gifts are both a spiritual investment and a wise stewardship opportunity, turning faith into action while planning wisely for the year ahead.



## WAYS TO MAXIMIZE YEAR-END GIVING:



- Mail a check  
(Use the enclosed envelope)



- Online at [AgapeFlights.com/Donate](https://AgapeFlights.com/Donate)  
(Credit Card or ACH)



- Call us at 941-488-0990



- Gifts of Stock or Qualified Charitable Distributions

# AGAPE FLIGHTS

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