



SUMMER 2025

FLIGHTLINE

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A PUBLICATION OF AGAPE FLIGHTS

Delivering LOVE & HOPE to the nations of the Caribbean

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE. -ROMANS 15:13

FINDING BEAUTY IN THE CHAOS: HOW SURFING IS CHANGING LIVES IN HAITI

When you think of Haiti, surfing might not be the first thing that comes to mind. But one of our ministry partners, C.A.M.P. Haiti, is changing that perception—using educational, spiritual, and recreational activities like surfing to echo the love of God.

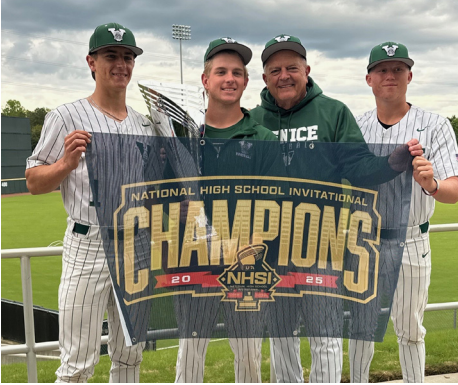
Founded in 2019 by Matthew and Laura Smith in response to an urgent need for community-based ministry in Cayes-Jacmel, the Community Advancement Ministry Project (C.A.M.P.) has become a vital presence in the region. In many parts of Haiti, access to community resources such as activity centers, clubs, and libraries is extremely limited. C.A.M.P. fills this gap by offering a safe, welcoming, and Christ-centered environment where local youth can grow, thrive, and experience God's love. Supporting young people during these pivotal years is foundational, and C.A.M.P. is changing the trajectory of their lives by feeding them spiritually amidst the surrounding chaos. Located along Haiti's stunningly clear blue coastline, Cayes-Jacmel is a historic surf spot—and now home to a budding surf culture thanks to C.A.M.P. In 2023, the Smiths' six-year-old Haitian son, Gideon—nicknamed "rat lanmè" ("ocean rat") by his friends—shared his excitement about surfing and how much he and his peers wanted to learn. By actively listening to the community's desires, the Smiths launched the first annual Surf Camp in partnership with local surf coaches.



Since then, the Lord has continued to provide, allowing Surf Camp to become a regular summer program. "The kids just love it," said Matthew. "As soon as they learn how to swim, they usually want to be part of Surf Camp."

The 2025 Surf Camp kicked off in late June and will run through the end of August. This year, in addition to weekly hot meals and beach cleanups, every participant received a pair of swim trunks, and C.A.M.P. added more surfboards to its collection—some of which Agape was blessed to help transport before the camp began. This summer, 45 kids aged 6 to 17 are riding waves. While most are returning participants, new families moving into the area bring exciting opportunities for outreach. "We get some new kids every year," said Matthew. "The camp really draws them in and opens the door to other programs." Beyond Surf Camp, C.A.M.P. offers a wide range of year-round, free programs for the community, including English and art classes, school scholarships, family food kits, cell phone charging, a computer lab, and a library. Through these initiatives, C.A.M.P. reaches approximately 400–500 community members regularly. Please join us in praying for the community of Cayes-Jacmel—that hearts would be transformed by God's love and that His light would shine across the nation.





Allen Speer CEO

A publication of Agape Flights
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HAVING HOPE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Just like the changing seasons, we all face times when life feels heavy—moments when we find ourselves walking through a valley of discouragement or sorrow. Sometimes we bounce back quickly. Other times, the weight of despair lingers longer than we’d like. In those moments, it’s natural to wonder, “Where is God in all of this?”

That’s when I came across Romans 15:13:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

These words stopped me in my tracks. The God of hope. Not just a source of encouragement, but the very giver of hope. That verse reminded me: hope isn’t wishful thinking—it’s the confident expectation of something sure. In a world full of uncertainty, God offers something solid, trustworthy, and lasting.

Life can be unpredictable. People can let us down. Circumstances shift without warning. But God? He is constant. He offers us joy and peace—not just in small doses, but overflowing, reaching into every part of our lives. That promise is for those who trust in Him. Paul’s prayer reminds us that this kind of peace and joy isn’t handed out randomly; it comes to those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. And what a gift that is.

It would be heartbreaking to have access to this promise and miss it because we’re holding back our trust. But when we do choose to trust Him, we make a beautiful exchange. We give Him our discouragement and, in return, He fills us with joy, peace, and hope—real, lasting hope.

We don’t have to stay stuck in hopelessness. We don’t have to try to muster up strength we don’t have. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God fills us with the very hope we long for—even when we feel empty.

As you read this summer edition of Flightline, I hope you find glimmers of beauty and hope even in the middle of chaos. You might wonder, “Why does Agape Flights keep going—especially into places like Haiti?” The answer is simple: because God called us to. He called us to go into the chaos. Into earthquakes. Into hurricanes. Into political unrest and gang violence. He told us to GO—and to TELL.

To tell everyone that He loves them.

That He sent His Son to die for their sins.

That He raised Jesus from the dead—conquering sin, death, and the grave—so that anyone who believes in Him can have eternal, abundant life.

Even in the middle of the storm.

Thank you for taking the time to read Flightline. Please pray for us—and, if you’re able, consider giving so that we can keep going and keep telling.

Allen T. Speer, CEO



Since 2018, *Second Mile Haiti's* Maternity Centers in Cap Haitien and Saint Raphaël have provided care for more than 12,000 women and newborns. From prenatal checkups through delivery and postpartum recovery, each mother receives thoughtful, professional care that ensures her safety—and her child's. Sandra is one of many women whose story reflects the impact of this work. She arrived at the Cap Haitien Maternity Center one Monday morning, just one of 110 women seeking care that day. Unlike the others, Sandra wasn't there for a scheduled appointment—she came in for a blood pressure check and was immediately seen by a nurse. Her reading was dangerously high: 158 over 90. The medical team quickly informed Sandra and her family that she would need to be induced. As her records were reviewed, Jenn Schenk, *Second Mile Haiti's* founder and Executive Director, recognized Sandra's name—she had previously received care at the Saint Raphaël campus. Though both locations remain safe from gang activity, Sandra and her family had chosen to move north as a precaution. Still, she shared how supported and secure she felt at both centers, regardless of the circumstances. By 7 a.m. the next morning, Sandra went into labor and delivered a healthy baby boy. Her story is just one example of how critical medical care—delivered with compassion—can offer more than healthcare; it offers peace, empowerment, and dignity. It's a reminder of the beauty that exists when families have access to safe spaces and skilled hands during life's most vulnerable moments.



Josue

You may remember from our last issue the growing instability at the *Peacemaker School of Petit Goave (PSPG)* in Haiti. Earlier this year, the rising threat of gang violence and civil unrest placed the safety of the school in jeopardy. Yet even in the darkest times, the light of hope and perseverance continues to shine brightly! This past June, we were thrilled to witness twenty-five 6th-grade students proudly walk across the graduation stage. Many of these students have been part of the PSPG family since they were just three years old, receiving spiritual, academic, and physical nourishment each and every school day. Their journey is a powerful testimony to the impact of heeding the call of God even in a dangerous situation.



Valancia

We joyfully celebrate their incredible achievements and lift up prayers asking for God's protection and blessings for their bright and promising futures. Through every challenge—and every victory—we are continually amazed by God's unwavering faithfulness and goodness.

Johannes and Luise Schuerer's love for the people of Haiti still burns fervently even after 50 years of ministry. Upon arriving in Haiti in 1975, the Schuerers realized the desperate need for programs that could equip women with the gospel, vocational training, and skills to care for their families. Two years later, their vision came to life and the Centre Lumiere was launched in Simon, just outside of Les Cayes. Since then, it has been a tremendous resource for women, providing classes in domestic economics, cooking/baking, crochet, embroidery/sewing, hospitality, and much more, helping women build confidence, independence, and hope for a brighter future. Countless lives have been transformed, and many graduates have gone on to impact their communities in powerful, faith-driven ways that ripple across generations.



The Schuerers recently recalled a letter they received several years ago that continues to deeply resonate with them. The letter detailed how easy it is to look at the chaos and dangers in Haiti. But a shift in mindset can allow one to see beauty in chaos. Letting God take the wheel in every circumstance is a vital part of faith. God calls us to believe even when we cannot see, and a great part of that is depending on God for God's work. With God, all things are possible.

MORE THAN A GAME: VENICE PLAYERS SHARE CHRIST THROUGH BASEBALL

In the Dominican Republic, baseball is more than just a pastime—it's a way of life. It's the heartbeat of the community, a source of hope, and for many young players, a potential pathway out of poverty. But for a group of high school athletes from Venice, Florida, a recent trip to the Dominican proved that baseball can be something even greater: a powerful platform for ministry. This past June, a team of Venice High School baseball players, accompanied by several parents, swapped their summer vacation plans for baseball gloves, Bibles, and a life-changing experience. Their destination: Santiago, Dominican Republic. Their purpose: to share the love of Christ through the universal language of baseball.

The trip was organized by Craig Faulkner, Head Coach of the Venice High School baseball team and board member of Agape Flights. He was joined by Agape's CEO, Allen Speer, who also serves as the team's Character Coach. Together, they partnered with SCORE International, a missions organization, to bring this unique vision to life. "It wasn't just about playing games," said Coach Faulkner. "It was about showing our players how baseball can be used as a tool to share faith, offer hope, and start conversations that really matter." Nearly every day during their time in the Dominican,



the team played doubleheaders with local youth from small towns and villages surrounding Santiago. But it wasn't just the final score that counted. After each game, the players and coaches gathered with their Dominican counterparts to share testimonies, offer words of encouragement, and present the gospel message. "These weren't just speeches," Faulkner emphasized. "They were heartfelt stories about what it means to be loved unconditionally by God."

Following the testimonies, the team would invite players, coaches, and spectators to respond to the message of Christ. Many did. Hearts were opened, prayers were said, and lives were changed. "It was humbling," said pitcher R.J. Shields. "I went into this trip thinking we were going to teach others, but the truth is, we were the ones who learned the most. We saw what it means to have joy in the midst of struggle and faith in the face of uncertainty." For many young Dominican athletes, baseball is seen as a ticket to a better life. But the Venice

team came with a different message: that identity is not found in a game, but in a relationship with Jesus Christ. That message struck a deep chord, leading to honest, emotional conversations and genuine spiritual connections. One particularly moving moment came after a morning game in a small village. As players, coaches, and fans gathered under a shaded area near the field, laughter was mixed with prayer and translated testimonies. By the end of that gathering, 13 young Dominican players had given their lives to Christ. "That's the kind of moment that reminds you why you came," said junior pitcher Kason Poplin. "I saw kids I could barely speak to become friends through a game. More than that, I saw how God used a ball, a bat, and a glove to lead people to Him."

The impact of the trip wasn't limited to those on the receiving end. The Venice players themselves returned home forever changed. They brought back more than photos or souvenirs—they returned with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of their faith. One night during the trip, Brian Berman, a missionary affiliate with Agape Flights, challenged the team with a powerful question: "What can you do to make someone else's life better—and point them to Jesus Christ?" That challenge resonated deeply with the group.



For these young athletes, they discovered that the mission field has no territorial limits—it's wherever they find themselves, on or off the field. Baseball will never be "just a game" again. It's now a ministry, a calling, and a bridge to reach others with the love of Christ. "In the end, the scoreboard didn't matter," Coach Faulkner said. "What mattered was how our players chose to live out their faith, how they built relationships, and how they showed the love of God through the game they love." This trip reminded everyone involved that when you put baseball—and your life—in God's hands, the results can reap eternal rewards.



FROM THE FLIGHTDECK

GREG HAMAN- DIRECTOR OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS

At Agape Flights, we're all called to serve. For me, that calling becomes especially clear during my time serving in the Caribbean—particularly in the aftermath of one of its most devastating natural disasters in the early 2010's. I'll never forget flying into Jacmel, Haiti, to deliver food supplies. As we began offloading the cargo, I could sense the weight of what we were doing. These weren't just boxes or crates—they were lifelines. That food became the only meal many Haitians received that day. In the middle of such chaos and brokenness, I found something unexpected: beauty. Not beauty in order or comfort, but in purpose. I wasn't speaking from a pulpit or sharing Scripture aloud, but I knew God was using me to serve—to be His hands and feet. Meeting a physical need in such a tangible way was its own kind of ministry. Often, it's easy to overlook the value in what we do behind the scenes. Whether it's a set of tires, a fuel pump, or a piece of equipment—it can seem routine or unremarkable. But as we talked about on the new Agape Purpose Podcast, you don't know what you don't know. That one part might be the very thing enabling a flight that delivers life-saving aid or supports a missionary sharing the gospel. There's real beauty in that. At Agape, we often serve quietly, behind the scenes, sometimes in the middle of chaos. But God is painting something far bigger than any one of us. And I'm humbled to be a part of that picture.

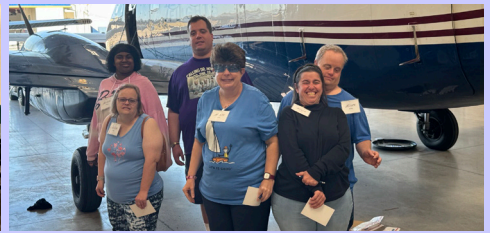


HANGAR HAPPENINGS

MISSION VENICE



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND TOURS



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION COOKOUT



THANK YOU BROOKLYNN FOR 5 INCREDIBLE YEARS OF SERVICE



Agape Flights extends our heartfelt gratitude to Brooklynn Benitez for five wonderful years of faithful service. Over the years, Brooklynn grew into a key leadership role within our ministry, eventually serving as our Missionary Services Director—a position in which she thrived and truly left her mark. From the beginning, Brooklynn brought a spirit of humility, joy, and dedication to every task. Whether she was organizing supplies, supporting missionary families, planning encouragement trips, or simply lending a listening ear, she approached each responsibility with excellence and compassion. Brooklynn's heart for service, strong work ethic, and genuine love for those we serve were evident to all who worked alongside her. No job was ever too big or too small—she was always willing to jump in, often going above and beyond, and always with a smile. Her impact extended far beyond logistics and coordination; she built lasting relationships and touched lives throughout the mission field. Though we will miss her presence dearly, we celebrate this next chapter as she embraces a new season with her husband, Santos, and their daughter, Adalynn. As Brooklynn steps into this new phase of life, we pray for God's guidance, peace, and abundant blessings for her and her family. Thank you, Brooklynn, for the heart, excellence, and love you brought to Agape Flights. You have left a lasting legacy, and you will always be part of the Agape family.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER INTERN, KATIE SOUZA

We were so grateful to have Katie Souza serve as a summer intern in our Communications Department. Throughout her time with us, Katie brought fresh energy, creativity, and a heart for service to her role, and we were truly blessed by her presence on the team. A proud Florida native, Katie was born and raised in Sarasota. At the time of her internship, she was preparing to enter her junior year at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she majors in Journalism and minors in Marketing. Her academic background and passion for storytelling made her a natural fit for the communications work at Agape. Katie came to us in a season of spiritual discovery, prayerfully seeking how God might use her interests, education, and talents for His glory. She expressed how blessed she felt to be part of the Agape team and embraced the opportunity to grow both professionally and spiritually. With a strong desire to use her skills to serve the Lord, Katie focused her efforts on helping spread awareness about Agape Flights and the missionaries we support. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and eagerness to learn left a lasting impression on our team. Katie truly was a valuable addition to our mission, and we are thankful for the impact she made during her time with us. We celebrate the work Katie accomplished this summer and look forward to seeing how God continues to work in and through her in the future.



PRAY FOR THE UNREST IN HAITI

Please join us in praying for the nation of Haiti, which is facing immense turmoil. Violent gangs control much of the country, creating fear, instability, and hardship for countless families. Many people lack access to food, clean water, and medical care. Mission workers on the ground are doing all they can to serve and bring hope, often at great personal risk. Pray for strength, safety, and wisdom for those serving in Haiti. Lift up the Haitian people, asking God to provide peace and provision. Please also pray that God would soften the hearts of gang members and bring lasting transformation.



BRINGING CALM INTO THE CHAOS: WHY BECOMING A MONTHLY DONOR TO AGAPE FLIGHTS MATTERS

2 Corinthians 9:12 reminds us: “This service... is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

In the most remote parts of the Caribbean—where roads end and isolation is part of everyday life—Agape Flights serves as a lifeline. Our planes deliver more than supplies. They bring hope, healing, and the love of Christ to missionaries serving in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas.

Each week, we fly critical cargo to those on the front lines—**medical supplies, Bibles, school materials, and disaster relief**. But none of this happens without faithful support from our donors. And monthly donors are especially vital to keeping this mission moving forward. Becoming a monthly donor isn’t just a financial decision—it’s a **powerful act of compassion and partnership**. It’s a way to serve those who are serving others and to be a part of every life touched by this ministry.

Monthly giving allows us to plan ahead, respond quickly to emergencies, and cover the ongoing costs of aviation—fuel, maintenance, pilot training, and logistics. When natural disasters strike, our aircraft are often the first to reach those in need. Your monthly support helps make that swift response possible. But the impact goes far beyond logistics. Every flight carries more than cargo. **It carries hope**. Medical missionaries receive tools to save lives. Churches and schools receive gospel-centered resources. Missionaries receive encouragement and the practical support they need to stay focused on their calling.

Your giving doesn’t just make a difference in others’ lives—it can impact yours, too. Regular generosity helps us remember that everything we have belongs to God. It builds a rhythm of giving, keeping your heart connected to His mission in the world. No matter the amount, your monthly gift makes you part of a bigger story—one of faith, service, and transformation.

Thank you for caring. Thank you for giving. And thank you for considering becoming a monthly partner with Agape Flights. Let’s keep hope flying—**together**.



 **WAYS TO BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR:**

-  • **Mail a check**
(Use the enclosed envelope - check the “I would like to make a monthly gift” box)
-  • **Online at [AgapeFlights.com/Donate](https://www.agapeflights.com/Donate)**
(Credit Card or ACH - toggle the Recurring slide)
-  • **Call us at 941-488-0990**

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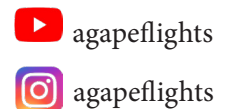
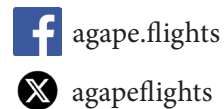


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