

Growing to Cuba

Agape's 35 year history is one of faith and expansion of territory throughout the nations of the Caribbean. We were not called to sit still, but rather to grow and be an integral part of the Great Commission. Starting with just one location in Haiti in 1980, we have grown into a ministry that now serves nearly 375 missionary families throughout 7 locations in Haiti, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic.

God has recently opened up another door of opportunity and expansion for Agape Flights on the largest island in the Caribbean, Cuba. The journey ahead is filled with much anticipation and excitement!

It was no coincidence when God brought CEO Allen Speer to Agape Flights in 2011. Allen comes with 26 years of ministry experience in Cuba. His knowledge and heart will help answer some of the frequently asked questions related to the Cuba expansion.:



Q : *Are there missionaries in Cuba?*

A : Up until recently, vocational missionaries have been prohibited from staying in Cuba for extended periods of time. However, there are hundreds of mission partners through the Cuban church and through Cuban nationals who are trained in church planting and missional service. Note: Several of the missionary families Agape Flights currently serve also minister in Cuba!

Q : *How will these mission flights differ from current flights to Haiti, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic?*

A : Flights to Cuba will be dedicated, one day trips, separate from our normal route. In Cuba, the transported cargo will be received by the Cuban Council of Churches* and then distributed to mission partners as designated by Agape Flights.

Q : *Who is paying for the cost of the flights?*

A : Initially we have been blessed with a \$10,000 gift to walk through this door of opportunity. This first flight to Cuba will carry 3 solar-powered water purification units to be used in the Holguin Norte District. For many, the desire to aid Cuba in this way has been there for years, with no way to get supplies in. God has opened the door, and we are trusting that He will see us through it by bringing financial partners along the way.

Q : *While working in a communist country, how can you be assured that supplies will reach their intended destination?*

A : With Agape's partnership with the Cuban Council of Churches* and their established relationship with the Cuban government, we are confident that the process will be workable and efficient. In addition to this partnership, our CEO has a longstanding relationship with numerous Cuban officials who have assured him of fluidity and consistency in this process.

Q : *When will the first flight take place?*

A : We are hoping that the first flight will take place sometime in May or June of 2016.

Q : *How often will you fly to Cuba?*

A : If financially feasible, we are initially looking at 1 flight per quarter in 2016, with the possibility of 1 flight per month in 2017. This certainly has the possibility of being more. As God leads, we will follow.

Q : *With only one aircraft, an Embraer 110, can Agape expand ministry service to Cuba?*

A : Yes, we can minister to Cuba with one aircraft. However, our main ministry tool, the Embraer 110, even now works very hard and requires time for maintenance and inspections. With the anticipated increased usage, it is our hope that an additional aircraft can be acquired for the support of the entire service to missionary partners throughout the Nations of the Caribbean.

Q : *What is the state of the Church in Cuba?*

A : The Cuban church is alive and thriving. "While many outside Cuba imagine that religious life had been stifled, there are in fact a wide range of churches active in the country, and religious membership and participation has been growing for twenty years," states Rev. John L. McCullough and Rev. Joel Ortego Dopico (President of the CIC) in *The Hill*, a Congress blog.

*What is the Cuban Council of Churches?

The Cuban Council of Church (CIC) was founded in 1941 on the theme "united to serve." The CIC is composed of 22 denominations, 12 ecumenical movements, and 7 associate organizations. Their purpose is to bring unity to the Christian Churches of Cuba and to help unify Cuban churches with other churches around the world. The CIC also promotes study, dialogue, and cooperation among Christians to increase Christian witness and enhance life in Cuba. In addition, the CIC Committee of Emergency Relief stands committed to providing relief and building emergency response infrastructure for the Cuban population in times of natural disaster.



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How can YOU join with us?

1. Pray!

"Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know."
Jeremiah 33:3 NAS -- Please pray and ask God to show you what He desires you to do to assist Agape Flights!

2. Persist!

Continue to call upon the Lord and intercede for Agape Flights!

3. Partner!

Commit to action. Partner with us to provide the necessary resources to proceed!

Immediate needs of Agape Flights:

1. **Funds for aircraft engine #2 overhaul** of Agape's only aircraft in last quarter of 2016 (Estimated Cost: \$225,000)

2. **Additional aircraft**- A twin engine aircraft capable of carrying at least 1,800 lbs for service to our current locations while allowing expansion to Cuba.

Some examples of aircraft that would best suit our immediate needs and best benefit this Christian aviation ministry would be:

Piper Chieftain (with crew door) | Cessna 402 C (with crew door) | Twin Otter | Aero Commander | EMB-110 | King Air (100-350 model).

Questions?: Call Allen Speer @ 941.488.0990 or
visit: <http://www.agapeflights.com/donate/current-needs/>