



MISSION INTERRUPTED: IMPORTANT UPDATE

On Friday, March 29, 2019, the day was humming along as planned. Agape’s Flightline newsletter had been sent to the printer, the finishing touches were being made to the SUN ‘n FUN Airshow work schedule, and we were expecting the return flight of the Piper Chieftain from Haiti with our pilots and two staff members...

Then, our hearts skipped a beat when the pilots activated a special message on the aircraft’s SPOT tracking device, and our Agape email received the following message:

Friday, 3/29/2019 1:33 PM

Device Name: Chieftain

Latitude: 18.57863, Longitude: -72.28479

GPS location Date/Time: 03/29/2019 13:33:30 EDT

Message: If you get this email, we are ok but need to speak with you as soon as possible.

The good news: WE ARE OK. **The not so good news:** the “need to speak with you as soon as possible” message indicates there has been an abnormal occurrence. The whirlwind of communication began, but **all while resting in knowing everyone was safe. Praise God!**

While staff members, Darin Martin and Rod Aldrich were waiting in Les Cayes, Haiti to be picked up by Agape’s plane after missionary meetings, **pilots Greg Haman and Steve Koch had encountered an internal (right) engine issue about 20 minutes after departing from Port au Prince (PAP) and made the decision to return to the PAP airport.** The pilots declared an emergency to the PAP Center, but beyond the engine issue, the landing was completely uneventful with no injuries or damage to the aircraft. Greg said, **“We did what we train to do. This is an example of why we exclusively utilize multi-engine aircraft for our ministry operations.”**

Steve and Greg landed and secured the aircraft at the Port au Prince (PAP) airport and returned to the states on a commercial flight. Staff members Darin and Rod were well taken care of by Mark Stockeland, Haiti Bible Mission, and Missionary Aviation Fellowship until they could return to the states the following evening.

The plan as of Monday, April 1: to bring the engine back to the Agape hangar where Greg Haman, Agape’s Director of Maintenance, will disassemble the engine, assess the damage, and reassemble the engine after making the necessary repairs.

>> Estimated costs associated with these preliminary plans to repair the Chieftain could be up to \$25,000.

As you will read in Flightline, the Embraer is undergoing 6 weeks of scheduled maintenance, and the Chieftain was being used to provide “uninterrupted” service to our missionaries. Even after planning well, the unexpected happens. **We know God is in control, He is faithful, and He uses many to be the “wind beneath our wings.”**

A former missionary couple who heard about the Chieftain’s engine issue called to make the first \$500 gift towards the cost of the repairs. Will you please join them in prayer and giving to help get the Agape aircraft back in the air?



The Piper Chieftain is safely secured on Missionary Aviation Fellowship’s (MAF’s) ramp at the PAP airport. We are thankful for mission aviation partnerships!



The Embraer 110, or EmBARE, is undergoing 6 weeks of scheduled maintenance in Lakeland, Florida.

Donate by mail, phone, or our website.

To make a gift for the Chieftain engine repairs, please note: **Engine Repair***

For gifts in support of all current aircraft needs: **Aircraft Funding**

*If contributions for the Chieftain engine repairs exceed the costs, funds will be directed to Aircraft Funding.