



Leaving a legacy of laughter, love

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Giving the gift of vision in the D.R.



Keith Starkey sorts mail for missionaries during a trip to Haiti in 2007. The co-founder of Agape Flights passed away April 23.

By all accounts, Keith Starkey was a faithful man, with a passion for the Lord and a dream to support missionaries by flying mail and supplies to the Caribbean.

Keith, who with his wife, Clara, founded Agape Flights in 1980, passed away April 23, 2014, at the age of 87.

As the news spread, missionary partners responded with messages of appreciation of his life and blessings for his family.

“The legacy of Keith Starkey will live

on for years to come through the thousands of lives whom he and Clara have touched through their ministry to Haiti,” wrote missionaries Randall and Anita Chabot-Stahls.

In an email to Clara, Brian Berman, a missionary partner with Project Manana, said Keith made a difference. “I can confidently say that without Agape Flights, we could not operate our ministry ... You and Keith have truly provided a valuable and important tool to allow the Gospel to be shared around the world.”

Keith’s humor was legendary. “At one Agape picnic he shared with us how well our packages are taken care of, particularly when marked “FRAGILE” and promptly kicked a little box off the platform – much to everyone’s amused horror,” the Chabot-Stahls recalled.

Family and friends held a memorial service May 3 at First Baptist Church in Bradenton.

Story after story emerged about Keith’s humility and humor.

“If Keith was sitting here today, he’d probably look at Clara and he’d say, ‘Clara, who’s that guy talking about?’” said Agape Flights CEO Allen Speer.

“And she’d probably have to say it a couple of times: ‘Keith, they’re talking about you.’ “Well, tell him to get on to bigger and better things. Tell him to brag on Jesus.”

See photos of the memorial service at <http://bit.ly/TtNhXO>



FROM THE CEO

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” — Psalm 126:2

Keith Starkey was a remarkable man. Apart from his being a great missionary, Keith had the ability to engage people and help them laugh. He always helped me laugh. I’m sure many of you laughed as I did at the short film, “Agape Flights: The Fundraiser,” produced at Agape in conjunction with the 2014 Giving Challenge. Not only was it funny, it was fun to do.

Life’s been getting a little tight for me. With more deadlines, family medical issues, too many meetings, not enough relaxation, more emails and phone calls than I can handle, it’s enough to make a grown man sigh. Or curl up in the fetal position and whimper. Or (perish the thought) work more hours.

Sometimes I feel about as competent and coordinated as a violinist wearing boxing gloves. And so, instead of blaming others or feeling sorry for myself, I’m going to laugh for a while. If you don’t feel like laughing with me, fold this baby up into your own specially designed airplane and sail it into your favorite recycle bin without a second thought. Far be it from me to force you to smile if you don’t feel like it.

It seems appropriate that we laugh at ourselves and the stuff that

drives us nuts.

Let’s have some fun. It’s overdue. Let’s laugh. For starters, remember that you and I need the ability to laugh at ourselves. As my 2-year-old grandson, Cooper, reminds me, “Pop, you are funny!”



Some humorous realities:

- The other checkout line always moves faster.
- You have not lived until you stand up in front of a group to speak and realize your fly is unzipped. (Yes, I’ve done this).
- No matter how long or how hard you shop for an item, after you buy it, it will be on sale cheaper somewhere else.
- You will remember you forgot to put the trash out front when the garbage truck is two doors away and you’re in the shower.
- Ladies, it is not until you finish walking into work will you discover that the bottom of the hem of your dress is stuck in the top of your pantyhose.
- Not until you get home from the party you will realize you have a string of spinach between your front teeth and it’s been there all night.

My prayer is that you will have reasons to rejoice, to laugh and be joyful because “the Lord has done great things for them.”

Flightline

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100 Airport Ave.
Venice, FL 34285
Phone: 941-488-0990
Fax: 941-485-3020
Email: gomissions@agapeflights.com

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Charlie Thompson
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Lt. Col. U.S. Air Force/Air National Guard, retired
Venice, Florida

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Send article ideas, comments and questions about *Flightline* to Communications Officer Jim DeLa at communications@agapeflights.com.



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Agape's first Giving Challenge reaps rewards

Through the generosity of local foundations associated with the 2014 Giving Challenge, Agape Flights had the opportunity to benefit from the availability of \$675,000 in



matching dollars and grant incentives.

This was a great opportunity to help multiply your ministry

investment and multiply it did!

Thanks to God's provision and the wonderful response of our Agape Flights partners, we emerged among the leaders out of 400 participating nonprofits.

Through your generosity and that of the participating foundations, \$55,033 was contributed to benefit Agape and the missionaries we serve.

The challenge: Get as many online donations as possible in a 24-hour period May 6-7. With 418 online gifts made to benefit Agape Flights, only four organizations had more donors.

It was by a slim margin of 14 gifts that we qualified for an extra incentive grant of \$10,000.

In an email to Agape Flights, Susie



Agape Flights produced a video parody to promote the Giving Challenge, which has been viewed hundreds of times on YouTube and Facebook. Check it out at www.youtube.com/agapeflights

Bowie, director of nonprofit strategy for the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, praised the results. "It's clear that you have earned significant funding from the Challenge, a result of your team's exceptional work," she wrote.

Community turns out for 'Pie in The Sky'

Our facility in Venice was transformed from an aircraft hangar to restaurant March 1 as we invited the community to our "Pie in the Sky" open house.

Volunteers worked at food stations and welcome tables to greet more than 400 people who attended.

Along with delicious pizza from Gianni's Pizza and beverages courtesy of Venetian Coffee Roasters, guests were able to meet our staff and board of directors, take tours of our aircraft and facility, and participate in a dessert pie auction which raised \$10,485 for Agape Flights. Thanks to our sponsors:

- Gianni's Pizza
- Venetian Coffee Roasters



People line up for pizza from Gianni's Pizza in Venice March 1 during Agape's "Pie in the Sky" open house.

- Café Venice
- Crow's Nest Marina Restaurant
- Dairy Queen
- Der Dutchman Restaurant & Bakery
- Detwiler's Farm Market
- Gold Rush BBQ
- Peach's
- Perkins Restaurant and Bakery
- Suncoast Café
- Sweetbay Supermarket
- Sweet Treats and Gifts
- Yoder's Restaurant



Jenny Bowman talks to Director of Missionary Services Jeff Yannucciello after a shopping trip.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

If it's on a list, Jenny will get it

She's been a volunteer at Agape Flights for a year and a half and many of our missionary families will tell you Jenny Bowman is one of the most important people here.

As one of our shoppers, she fills a unique role that has her walking the aisles of local stores every week.

She gets wish lists from our partners for grocery and personal items they can't get in the Caribbean.

"I'm solving problems because they need things they don't have access to," she said. "Things we take for granted."

Always on the list are items including fresh produce and milk "They need staples. They aren't asking for extravagant things."

The most unusual item she's ever bought? "Men's hair dye," she said.

She says shopping for missionaries is fulfilling. "I want to serve. You need to have a humble heart and always think about what you can be doing for others," she observed.

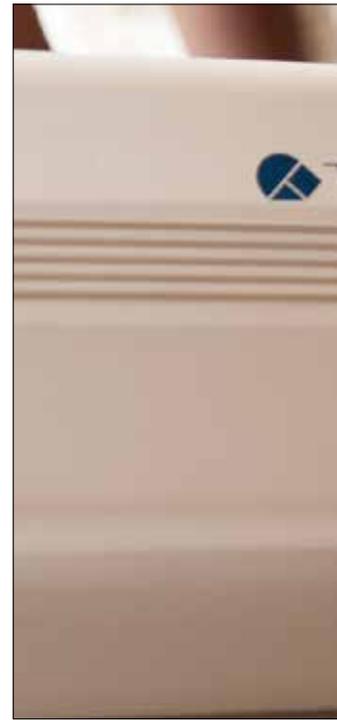
"That keeps everything in your own life in perspective. You don't dwell on your own things."

Mission team gives the gift of better sight

More than 400 people in the Dominican Republic received eyeglasses in May, thanks to a mission team from Orlando, Fla., conducting vision screenings in various locations, including working with our missionary partner Marco Rodriguez and the Channel of Blessings Ministry Center near Santo Domingo.

Agape Flights carried equipment, including an autorefractor (seen at right) used for the eye exams. "Thanks so much for Agape's partnership in this project," wrote Kristian Anderson of TIME Ministries, who helped organize the trip. "Many people were blessed with the gift of better sight!"

This is the third year people from Hunter Vision and Northland Church have teamed up for such a mission trip.





Missionaries seeing the fruits of their labor

Natacha is an earthquake girl who found herself in the Northern part of Haiti with a friend of her deceased sister. After a while, Natacha was kicked out with nowhere to go in a strange village of Haut-Limbe. Kihomi jumped in to help. She rented a room for Natacha to stay and provided kitchen cooking tools. Kihomi put her to school to study business administration at our university and has been paying since then for her studies.

Today, Natacha defended her bachelor's thesis in order to receive her academic degree May 30.

Natacha will go back to Port-au-Prince confident that she can face life and not depend on anybody to feed and clothe her.

Thank you for being part of Natacha's life and playing a role in helping her forge a future.

Serving the Master in Haiti,

*Nzunga & Kihomi
Les Cayes, Haiti*



Students from the S.E.E.D. Institute in Les Cayes, Haiti, fill Bethel Church on a recent Sunday morning.

S.E.E.D. students witness for Christ

Doris Clotaire, a missionary partner in Les Cayes, Haiti, sent us some photos from the S.E.E.D. Institute (Service Evangelization Education & Development), which runs an agricultural and veterinary junior college in Les Cayes.

On a recent Sunday morning, more than 80 students loaded three trucks with water and food to visit Bethel Church in Flandiere, an area where witchcraft is widely prac-

ticed.

"Coming to the church, we were received with excitement because churches in the country are often neglected," Doris wrote. "Almost half of the building was filled with our students.

"Satan doesn't want to give up his stronghold but we praise God that the Lord is greater and stronger!

"Six people wanted to start their walk with Jesus and almost

100 families were visited by our students and church members. They went out in several groups in order to talk with more people.

"Please, pray especially for the newly converted because Flandiere is a very difficult zone for believers.

"Pray for Pastor Victoire and his family because they often suffer persecution.

"Pray for the church in general that they will continue to be a great witness for our Lord and Savior."





Missionary partners team up for girls' conference

Throughout the world, marriage is usually regarded as a moment of celebration, but this is not the case for many young girls in the slums of the Dominican Republic.

Abuse, poverty and a lack of education puts these girls at a very high risk for premature, unwanted, or out-of-wedlock pregnancies. Some girls are forced out of their homes to live with and care for older men just so the parent(s) have one less mouth to feed.

These girls, from 12 to 18 years of age, are not given a chance to develop individual potential in adequate and safe environments so as to contribute and participate in the family, the school and the community.

We at TEARS School are fighting against this injustice and are excited to be able to send our girls to a conference at La Vega

Christian School with Agape partner Debbie Martinez.

This conference will encourage young ladies to be committed to emotional purity, to walk by faith, and to wait for God's best in marriage.

The material is discreet and appropriate for 12-year-olds, and relevant to all ages. This conference gives Biblical answers to everyday questions and deep life struggles.

—Rod Davis, *TEARS Ministries*



From the email bag:

We want to thank Agape Flights for the recent delivery of medical supplies, including the boxes of children's vitamins.

The Arise Center of Healing treats more than 200 patients each week; the medical supplies will be a great blessing to this ministry.

The vitamins will be given to the children who come each day to the feeding center.

We appreciate the partnership of Agape Flights!

May the Lord continue to bless your service.

For the Transformation of a Nation;

— James and Rachael Courter
Co-Founders, *ARISE HAITI*
Gelee Beach, Haiti

I want to take this occasion to thank the entire Agape staff for services rendered in getting the 14 parcels that I had shipped in from the States in December and again in January to me in excellent condition.

Once again, THANK YOU for the great job you are doing keeping us missionaries informed (mail) and supplied (freight). God Bless.

Fraternally;

— The Rev John Henault
O.M.I.
(Missionaries Oblates of Mary Immaculate)
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Summer brings challenges, opportunities

We feel God's sweet Spirit through your prayers, are humbled by your generosity and encouraged by your kindnesses and testimonies. Thank you for all the ways you partner with us in service and ministry

Through you, God's favor continues to be evidenced — in the hangar, on our flights and the mission field. We praise the Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of your partnership however you're led to participate in His Kingdom work.

Engine Overhaul Update: As of this writing, the timing of the needed engine overhaul is expected to begin at the end of 2014. By flying our loaned Embraer aircraft (N830AC) more frequently, we have been able to extend the engine overhaul work on Agape's Embraer (N316AF) by several weeks. We thank God for His provision as we continue to prepare for this major work and expense.

- Estimated expense: \$160,000
- Current fund balance (as of May, 31, 2014) \$66,700.14
- Still needed: \$93,299.86

Summer project ideas: Looking for a summer project for your church or youth group? Contact Carole to discuss the possibilities by email at Carole.Leman@agapeflights.com or phone 941-488-0990.

Virus hitting Caribbean hard

Missionaries in Haiti and the Dominican Republic are asking for donations of Ibuprofen and Tylenol (acetaminophen) tablets — to treat a mosquito-borne virus spreading quickly across the Caribbean.

The virus, called chikungunya, was first seen in the Caribbean in December 2013. Common symptoms are fever and joint pain, headache, muscle pain, joint swelling or rash. There is no vaccine or medicine to prevent or attack chikungunya directly. Symptoms usually last about a week.



Chris and Sheryl Brumley, Agape missionary partners in Haiti with Global Outreach International, wrote in a blog that the virus is hitting their area hard.

“It is completely debilitating ... Many of our employees have now had this along with their children and schoolchildren in our schools ... we are praying for an end to the suffering.”

The Brumleys say supplies of Ibuprofen and Tylenol are dwindling. “We have enough in our clinic, but many are running out and they have upped the prices in pharmacies here because of demand.”

Agape has delivered an initial supply of acetaminophen for distribution but could use your help to continue this effort.

You can make a contribution to Agape Flights marked “General Relief Fund” to enable Agape to quickly respond to health-related challenges, storms or missionary emergencies throughout the areas we serve.

General Relief Fund Balance: \$5,841 (as of June 1, 2014)

Leaving a Legacy: The Keith and Clara Starkey Legacy Circle was established in 2011 to recognize individuals who include Agape Flights in their legacy gift planning.

If you have already included Agape Flights in your estate plans or would like more information on

becoming a member of the Keith and Clara Starkey Legacy Circle, please call the Agape office at 941-488-0990 and ask for Carole.

By joining the Legacy Circle you will make a Kingdom difference through Agape's ministry and the missionaries we serve.

Every gift, no matter what the amount, is a huge blessing!

Ways to Give

Mail (use the enclosed envelope) or phone 941-488-0990

Online at www.agapeflights.com

For gifts of stock, annuities, IRA, beneficiary of an insurance policy or your will:

Ministry Name: Agape Flights, Inc.
EIN # 59-2057436

When you make a financial investment in Agape Flights, your gift supports 375 missionary families and their ministries; reaching more than a million people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and humanitarian aid in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas.

Questions? Contact Carole Leman, Director of Development, Ph: 941-488-0990 or Carole.Leman@agapeflights.com

To make a gift to assist with current needs, please specify General Fund (where funds are needed most) or Aircraft Fund. To make a gift toward the 2014 engine overhaul, please specify the Engine Overhaul Fund.



Flightline **AGAPE**
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Agape Flights
100 Airport Avenue
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A vote for Agape Flights could be worth \$10,000



Agape Flights has been named one of 15 finalists to participate in the 2014 Lightspeed Aviation Foundation Pilot's Choice Grant program.

The organization gathering the most online votes will receive a Lightspeed grant of up to \$10,000.

You can help us reach that goal simply by casting an online vote and sharing this opportunity with your family, friends and faith community.

Agape Flights will use the Lightspeed grant toward a \$160,000 overhaul of one of our Pratt and Whitney turboprop engines.

Go to www.agapeflights.com and click on the Lightspeed link.



941-488-0990 • 941-485-3020 Fax  www.agapeflights.com
100 Airport Ave., Venice, FL 34285-3901  gomissions@agapeflights.com