

THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

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ROBIN ROBBINS HOUSE, WRITER & EDITOR

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Think on these things...

Philippians 4:8-9

IN THE NEWS

Hundreds of news outlets have reported that Malaysian Airline Flight number MH370 flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing China was lost in the early hours of March 8, 2014. Airline authorities and government officials have few clues as to what happened to the plane. Two hundred thirty-nine passengers and crew were on board the seemingly routine flight. The last transmission of "Good night" came seven hours after the plane disappeared from radar screens according to a Reuters news source. No Mayday or reports of in-flight problems were heard. Nothing seemed suspicious about the take off or the flight. No terrorist groups have claimed responsibility or been directly implicated in the incident. It was as if the plane just disappeared from the face of the earth.

The United States Navy, British Inmarsat geostationary satellites, the Australian Navy, and NASA are just a few of the resources involved in the search for the plane and its 239 souls. According to Fox News, the Boeing 777-220ER with a range of 7725 nautical miles prompted a search area that includes seven million square miles and the land masses of 26 separate countries. The Australians alone are searching an area the size of France in the Indian Ocean where depths exceed two miles. Billions of dollars and hundreds of man hours have been spent to find the plane and its passengers.

Investigators reviewing information from surveillance video footage at the airport and passenger manifests found two passengers boarded with stolen passports. Ongoing searches of the pilot's home computer and flight simulator continue. Investigators, two weeks after the incident still have no answers. Speculations on the plane's trajectory and fate continue. With modern technology, one would think a plane so large couldn't just vanish. What happened? Where are they? We may know by the time this article publishes, or as in the case of Amelia Earhart and her plane, may never know.

This story brought to mind thoughts about the vastness of our world and our God. Psalm 24:1 tells us that "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it, for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters." Continuing on in Psalm 33:13 David says, "From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth - he who forms the hearts of all, he considers everything they do." Some think God didn't make the earth. He did. Some believe God doesn't care or know about what is going on day to day, but Psalm 33 confirms that **God is watching and considering everything we do.** While reporters, family and friends wonder and worry, God knows where those passengers and crew are, what happened and why.

The passengers of flight MH370 boarded what they thought would be a regular flight on what seemed to be a routine day. Many of us go through life in this way, assuming everything will continue in the same patterns day after day. We operate on auto pilot, but James 4:13 warns, "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, sped a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." Paul writing in Romans 3:23 confirms, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

The Bible teaches that sin separates us from God. It also reveals that God wants a relationship with us so much that he gave his one and only son, Jesus, as the payment for the sins we have committed and to make us righteous before him. Romans 4:22 says, "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe..." Psalm 32:1 and following says, "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit."

We, as human beings, are much more than the physical bodies we see and touch. Genesis 2:7 tells us that "the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul." Yes, we are physical beings, but that is the temporary part of who we are. We have an eternal part, the soul, that will live forever. Once our physical bodies die, our souls will live on eternally either with or without God. I didn't know any of the Malaysian Airline crew or passengers. I have no idea as to whether they are physically still alive or not. I do know their souls are eternal and hope they were prepared for their eternity if they died on that flight.

In the final verses of Matthew, Jesus commanded his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." These verses are known as the great commission. In Acts 5:42, we learn that the apostles "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house they **never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.**"

What about us? As Christians (disciples of Christ) are we teaching the good news of Jesus? We have the good news about how much God loves us. We have the good news that Jesus paid our debt for sin. We have the good news that God gives his Holy Spirit to those that serve Christ. We have the good news that God wants an eternal relationship with us. The question is, how much do we really care about the eternal part of the people in our family, friends, those at our workplace, and others we come to meet? People from around the world are desperately searching for the physical bodies of family and friends aboard Flight MH370. Was anyone so caring for their spiritual welfare?

God "watches all" and "considers everything we do?" Do we watch and consider what we are doing from day to day? Are we sitting on auto pilot through a life considering only the temporal here and now? Do we think about what is eternal, the everlasting? Do we search for those who are lost spiritually with the fervor the international community has shown in searching for flight MH370?

In Matthew 10:28 and following Jesus says, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven."

We have the good news. God loves us. God values us so much he exchanged the life of his son for ours. God wants an eternity with us. What do you want? What will you do with the good news? Is it your secret or will you share it? Each of us has the opportunity to positively impact the eternal future of others. Someone you and I know today is lost. Will we search to find them? Will we try to help save them with God's good news? I think on these things.

Robin Robbins House



DID YOU KNOW?

Who led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil?

How many days and nights did Jesus fast in the desert?

What is another name the devil is called?

What did Jesus use to respond to the devil in each instance of temptation?

Who took care of Jesus after the devil left him?

When did Jesus return to Galilee?

Why did Jesus go to live in Capernaum?

What did Jesus preach?

Name the two brothers Jesus called first to follow him.

Name the second set of brothers Jesus called to follow him.

What did these two sets of brothers do for a living?

Answers to these questions can be found in Matthew chapter four.

RECIPES

Southwest White Chicken Chili

- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 Skinless Boneless chicken breast halves
- 4 tsp chili powder
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 large onion chopped
- 1 medium green pepper
- 1 can (10 1/4 oz) cream of chicken soup
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 1/2 cups of frozen whole kernel corn
- 2 cans white kidney beans
- 2 Tbsp shredded Cheddar Cheese



Heat oil in 4 qt sauce pan over medium high heat and add chicken, chili powder, onion, cumin, and pepper and cook until chicken is cooked through and vegetables are tender, while stirring often.

Stir water, soup, corn, and beans in a saucepan and heat to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cover and cook 5 min, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with cheese and enjoy.

Please feel free to submit recipes, positive quotes, comments, etc. to
The Good News Gazette at thegoodnewsgazette1@gmail.com

M E M O R Y V E R S E

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

Psalm 19:14

