

TRUE COST OF HUMANITY

This week's news headlines include the Pacific Oceania search for a missing airliner with two hundred plus passengers on board. The plane has been missing for six days as of this writing. Its location is still unknown. This is an odd case of no communications, no notice of distress, no indication of disaster, no certain last position. In response to this accident, a massive ship, air and satellite search mission is underway. Twelve nations are participating, with fifty vessels and aircraft. Governments and militaries across the region have joined together. The aircraft and engine manufacturers are involved. The search covers 3500 square nautical miles.

As mysterious and potentially disastrous as this accident is, there is one sliver of positive. Consider all the people, equipment, technology and their related expenses involved in this search. Estimate that expense and divide by the number of people on that aircraft (stated as 229). The resultant cost per person is currently enormous and growing every day. The positive sliver: in this case, the world attaches a value to human life - Priceless. The sad part? People across the globe at this very moment - Middle East, Central Africa, South America and numerous other places, including the Chaplain's homeland - are dying from violent acts. These deaths sometime appear in headlines. The per person cost to destroy these people seems to be incalculable. While millions are being spent to find a downed airliner, there is no major news report as to the cost of the deaths in these other events. One could be cynical. That is, the current major effort in the Pacific is based more on what went wrong and how to prevent it from happening again, and not on the people lost, If that is the real agenda, then what is the world doing to prevent the destruction of lives from other violent acts, so they will not happen again? Actually calculating the expense of these worldly deaths may bring forth answers and an honest reflection on the True Cost of Humanity.

Chaplain on Signal Mountain
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