

More Prayers for Austin and Perry: The power of hope and prayer



Perry Cohen (left) and Austin Stephanos of Tequesta, Florida have been missing at sea since they left on a fishing trip on a small boat last Friday afternoon.

It's Day 7 in the search for Austin and Perry...

And the family and friends of the boys from Tequesta, Florida who disappeared at sea on a 19-foot boat last Friday are not giving up hope that they will soon be found and reunited.

The search has continued nonstop all week with coordination by the Coast Guard and the involvement of the Air Force. They have covered almost 40,000 square nautical miles since last Friday.

As I wrote on Tuesday, the local Palm Beach County towns of Jupiter and Tequesta are tightly knit. The locals just won't give up on these 14-year olds.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, which Austin and Perry cruised past on their way out to go fishing in the ocean waters, is not only the symbol of the town, but has also been called the beacon of hope for all who await the return of the boys from Tequesta.

1. Read my Part 1 here: "Prayers for Austin and Perry: Two young sons lost at sea"

2. The "Find Austin and Perry Facebook" page has been posting regular updates all week with over 143,000 followers as of Thursday morning.

The power of prayer:

People of faith from around the world have turned to prayer for the boys and their families. Thousands and thousands of messages of encouragement and the assurance of prayers have flooded social media all week with the hashtags #findaustinandperry and #prayforaustinandperry.

After Sunday night's gathering at Austin's school, Jupiter Christian School, there have been other prayer services and sunset vigils each night at the Jupiter Lighthouse and other locations along the beach. Anywhere from dozens to hundreds have gathered to pray with lighted candles. The local Jupiter/Tequesta community is

steadfastly holding onto hope that the boys will be found and brought home safely to their families.

A cousin's prayer:

Austin's cousin, Natasja, asked people to pray with her on a Facebook post on Wednesday morning:

"Please join me in morning prayer:

Dear merciful Lord,

We know our boys have the skills, the will and the want.

Please, give them the extra strength they need.

We trust in your will. In your name we pray.

Amen.

'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'