



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

February 2015

The Unbroken

About a year ago I read this fascinating book by Laura Hillenbrand entitled "Unbroken." It was a big book (496 pages) and highly recommended to me by a member of Grace. This past Christmas it came out as a major motion picture.

It is the story of Louis Zamperini. He was born in 1917 and raised in Southern California. As a youth he was a hell raiser with a penchant for stealing things. Thankfully his energies were redirected into sports. He became a champion runner. He competed in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. He came in 8th place in the 5000 meters but he came on strong on the last lap that even caught the eye of Hitler. He was asked to come and see the German dictator and was complemented on his amazing finish. Zamperini returned the favor by stealing a large Nazi flag!

Zamperini continued his running and set a national collegiate mile record of 4:08 minutes despite being purposely spiked by competitors. This record held for 15 years.

But it is his military service and post-military life that I wish to relate to our own Christian lives. In May of 1943 on a search mission for a downed aircraft, the B-24 that Zamperini was in, had mechanical issues and crashed killing 8 of the 11 crewmen. For 47 days the survivors (another died after 33 days) endured sharks, strafing by Japanese planes and little to no food. They drifted 2000 miles and washed ashore on one of the Marshall Islands where they were captured by the Japanese.

Zamperini would spend the rest of the war in Japanese camps, the last and worst being located in Northern Japan. He was physically tortured and psychologi-

cally abused. He was singled out by a sadistic guard named Mutsuihira Watanabe, known by the prisoners as "the Bird." Watanabe wanted Zamperini to broadcast anti-American propaganda. At war's end this guard was deemed the 7th most wanted war criminal. However, he was never captured and in the 1950's war prosecutions were suspended.

Zamperini came home emotionally wrecked. He had terrifying dreams and he drank heavily. He nearly destroyed his marriage. His wife Cynthia urged him to attend the Billy Graham crusade in downtown Los Angeles. The most wonderful thing happened – he was converted and his life was transformed. Proof of this was his readiness to forgive his tormentors. His nightmares disappeared. In 1950 he went to Japan met former guards, testified about Christ and threw his arms around them. He attempted to reach out to Watanabe. He wrote: *"As a result of my prisoner of war experience under your unwarranted and unreasonable punishment, my post-war life became a nightmare...but thanks to a confrontation with God...I committed my life to Christ. Love replaced the hate I had for you."* Watanabe never replied and died in 2003.

What he learned looking back as a POW in Japan and in relation to his Christian life is that hope has to have a reason and faith has to have an object.

We may never have the hardships or the persecutions that Zamperini had, but the Bible is replete with encouragements and warnings that we must persevere. The old adage that it is not how you start but how you finish that matters is supported by many a Bible verse. Consider these:

(Continued on page 2)

The Unbroken

(Continued)

"Be faithful, even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10b

"All men will hate you because of Me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." Matthew 10:22

"We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first." Hebrews 3:14

"...but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." Matthew 24:13

Fellow believers, we have a reason for the hope we cling to (the promises of Jesus Christ!!). And the object of our faith is none other than Jesus Christ Himself. Because of this faith we can hold on and stand firm to the end no matter what happens to us. For we will be with the Spirit's help "The Unbroken"!

~ Pastor Rich



Begins
on

**Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2015**

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Our Grace Family

Meet Helen Horlbeck

If you remember last month's "honoree" Eric Horlbeck, you immediately applaud wife Helen. Helen was born in Long Island, New York, and has also shared married life for 53 years. She tells us about son Eric and daughter Linda and identifies their four grandchildren: Jonathan, Maria, Eric, and Ben. Helen is a retired X-ray technician, and she truly enjoyed her work as a mammographer. She worked for years as the Assistant Chief Technologist.

Once they doted on their wonderful German Shepherd, but now checks on the house "full of Teddy Bears" (mentioned by Eric before). Are you aware that Helen made many of those Teddy Bears? Crafts and needlework lead into playing cards, board games and doing math puzzles. Helen would "love to be a fly on the wall" and questions just what would "she discover!" My, my!

With all the activities listed above, no wonder she would love to have someone slip in to clean her house and prepare meals! "Anything from a restaurant" has Helen ready to dine, and in a more intimate description, she includes roast lamb, pies, cookies, and "OH, DON'T FORGET CHOCOLATE."

Helen lived in 10 houses by age 20, has lived in 21 houses in 5 different states, traveled to 38 states and 19 different countries! Small wonder that she considers herself most blessed by God, knowing that He always has His Hand on her shoulder!



Christ is God Over All

Romans 9:5 is one of your favorite passages for showing that Jesus Christ is true God--"Theirs (*i.e.* the Jews) are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah (*i.e. Christ*), **who is God over all**, forever praised! Amen." (NIV)

Then you notice a footnote, and it says, "Or *Messiah, who is over all. God be forever praised!* Or *Messiah. God who is over all be forever praised!*" The footnote suggests alternate ways the passage might be translated, and those do not really affirm that Christ is God. You are confused. Which reading is right?

You can see the alternate readings arise because someone added a period or moved a comma. You may know the original Greek text did not always use punctuation of any kind. But, you do not want to be stuck proving Christ's divinity based on a comma.

This is a case where two factors become very helpful: the original Greek text of the New Testament and a comparison of it with the original Greek text of the Old Testament in use by many Jews during the First Century AD and known as the Septuagint. (Your pastors can show you.)

Look at the little phrase "who is" in Romans 9:5. In the Greek of the New Testament that appears (phonetically spelled) as "(*h*)*aw own*." It is a simple masculine relative pronoun ("who") and a simple participle (that is, an -ing word, like "running" or "seeing") of the common word for "to be" (that is: "being").

Go to Exodus 3:14 where God gave His very personal name to Moses. We know that as, "I Am Who I Am." But, in

the Bible used by most Jews during the First Century AD that was given as "The One Being." In Greek it is the identical phrase used in Romans 9:5 (*[h]aw own*). That phrase appears right next to the word, "Christ." The effect is to identify Christ as on a par with the special name of God from Exodus 3:14. Greek speaking Jews did use this phrase as the name of God.

Consider that Paul was a Pharisee's Pharisee. He was very zealous for the Jewish faith before his conversion and would have strongly opposed any suggestion Jesus is God. Yet, in Romans 9:5 that is exactly what he wrote by placing the proper name of God from the Septuagint next to the word Christ.

Jesus did something very similar when He occasionally used "I am" in relation to Himself, especially when there was nothing to complete the thought, like "-the door," or "-the way." John 8:58 is an example: "Very truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'" (NIV) In the next verse the Jews picked up stones to stone Him (for blasphemy because He made Himself equal to God with these words.)

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

See: Gerhard Kittel, Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, ed. and trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (10 vols.; Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1964-1976), Vol. II, p. 398.

Pure Love for Jesus

Jesus has always many who love his heavenly kingdom, but few who bear his cross. He has many who desire consolation, but few who care for trial. He finds many to share his table, but few to take part in his fasting. All desire to be happy with him; few wish to suffer anything for him. Many follow him to the breaking of bread, but few to the drinking of the chalice of his passion. Many revere his miracles; few approach the shame of the cross. Many love him as long as they encounter no hardship; many praise and bless him as long as they receive some comfort from him.

...

Those, on the contrary, who love Jesus for his own sake and not for any comfort of their own, bless him in all trial and anguish of heart as well as in the bliss of consolation. ... What power there is in pure love for Jesus — love that is free from all self-interest and self-love!

~ Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

Locating Library Materials

Recently I was asked how to locate materials in the library. There is a card catalog on the computer located on the desk by the door. Next to the computer (and also on the conference table) is a sheet detailing the process for using the computer card catalog. Searches can be done by author, title, series title, subject, or keyword. After turning on the processor, click on the "Library User" icon to begin. Double click on "shortcut to library exc." Choose which search you would like the computer to perform (author, title, subject, keyword). Type in your search word(s), click on search, and wait for your response. For a more detailed description of the process, refer to the help sheet.

If browsing is more to your liking, the following guidelines may be helpful in locating the most commonly checked out materials in the non-fiction section. The numerical categories include:

150: Psychology, including emotions such as sorrow, joy and grief.

200: Religion Section--The majority of the materials in the library are in this section. It breaks down further as follows:

200-209: Covers history and geography of Christianity, dictionaries, atlases, concordances, and reference materials.

210-219: Covered in these numbers are the nature of God, creation, theology, science and religion, and worship.

220-229: The Bible, including different translations of the Bible, books on Old and New testament personages, the complete set of Luther's Works and Bible commentaries.

230-239: The Trinity--All works specific to God, Jesus Christ, His family and His ministry, the Holy Spirit, angels, salvation, heaven, and hell..

240-249: Christian moral and devotional material, personal Christian growth, the Christian life, prayer, and conversion.

250-259: Local church organization, church growth, the clergy, evangelism, welfare work.

260-269: Rites such as the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the role of the church in society, government and education.

270-279: History of the Christian church, persecutions, martyrs.

280-289: Denominations within the Christian church.

290-299: Other religions including Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism.

300: Social Science area. Most utilized areas are:

305 and 306: Marriage and parenting.

330: Personal finances and budgeting

390: Customs, holidays, and etiquette.

600: Medical and Health area

610: General health, diseases, elder care

700: Fine Arts, most specifically the 780's which cover music and 790's which cover movies.

900: History - United States and world history from biblical times through the present.

920-921: Biography. To locate an individual biography, go to 921 and then search alphabetically by biographer's last name. For example, Billy Graham is 921 Gra or Martin Luther is 921 Lut.



Two New Additions

A.D. 30 by Ted Dekker (Fic Dek): Maviah, the outcast daughter of the powerful Bedouin sheikh of Arabia, finds herself called upon to protect those who rejected her. In her escape she is aided by one of her father's warriors and a Jew named Judah. Furthermore, she must forge an alliance with King Herod. When her path unexpectedly leads to Yeshua, her life changes drastically. Even though following Him presents great danger, Maviah knows He is the Way to save herself and her people. Dekker offers another suspense-filled lot framed around the years of Jesus' earthly ministry. Note: If you choose to read the biblical historical novel, be certain to read Dekker's personal faith statement in the beginning of the book entitled, "My Journey Into A.D. 30."

Salt and Light: A Guide to Loving Knoxville by Compassion Coalition (261.8 Com): This is a resource tool to be used by anyone interested in reaching out to the less fortunate in the Knoxville area with compassion and Christian love. This handy reference covers all areas of need giving a vision on being salt and light and a means of equipping the church to be salt and light in Knoxville. Any person or group wishing to reach out to community but is uncertain how, where, or when will find this volume invaluable.

~ Mary Schultz

(See related Library article on page 6.)

Top Library Picks of 2014

Among the books new to the library in 2014, the following would be my top picks (in alphabetical order by author):

1. *Uncommon Marriage: Learning About Lasting Love and Overcoming Life's Obstacles Together* by Tony and Lauren Dungy (306.81 Dun)
2. *Crash the Chatterbox: Hearing God's Voice Above All Others* by Steven Furtick (248.4 Fur)
3. *Simplify: Ten Practices to Unclutter Your Soul* by Bill Hybels (248.4 Hyb)
4. *Jesus on Trial - A Lawyer Affirms the Truth of the Gospel* by David Limbaugh (239 Lim)
5. *Soul Keeping: Caring For the Most Important Part of You* by John Ortberg (235.5 Ort)

Two authors whose writings I always enjoy each added two books to our collection in 2014.

Final Words From the Cross and *Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to the Beginning* both by Adam Hamilton (239.9 Ham).

Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer and *You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times* both by Max Lucado (248.4 Luc).

~ Mary Schultz



Valentine's Dance

**Saturday, February 14, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

Grace Family Life Center

Fun for all!! Come enjoy a dinner, dance with your Grace friends and family. Everyone is welcome!



Parade of Tables 2015

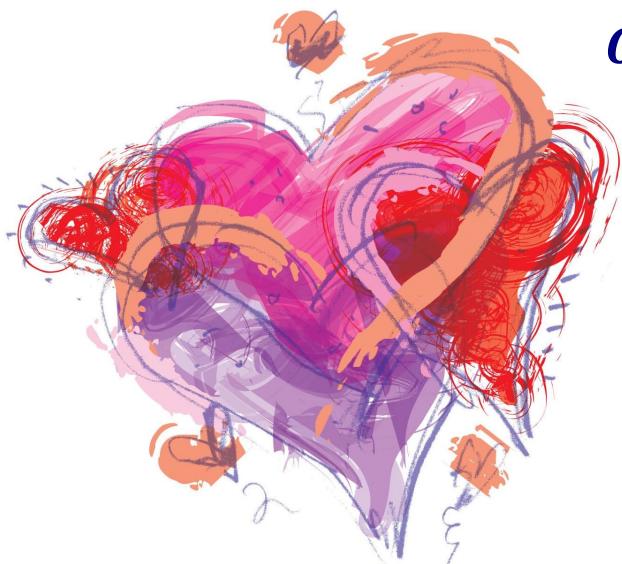
**Saturday, March 7
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

The theme for the decorations for this year's Parade of Tables is ***Nations of the World***. If you are interested in hosting a table or buying tickets to attend, please contact **Maria Brelsford** or **Nancy Duthey**, or sign up on the bulletin board across from the Family Life Center restrooms.

Proceeds from this year's event will go to the Restoration House. Guidelines for hosting a table and information on Restoration House can also be found on the bulletin board.

Tickets will also be sold on Sunday mornings closer to the event. Last year's event nearly filled the Family Life Center with beautifully decorated tables. We hope to exceed that this year. Invite your friends and come for a wonderful time!





Grace LWML Valentine's Basket Exchange

Saturday, February 14, 2015
9:30 a.m.

In the Family Life Center Narthex

Decorate a basket or other container with a Valentine theme, add a lunch item, a sweet of some kind or a piece of fruit, and other goodies if you wish. Then we will exchange those baskets. Following the basket exchange we will have a special "Tea" led by Julia Caudill.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend and participate in our basket exchange and tea time. Hope to see you thee!



Healthline is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace's very own Sheila Wittke.

AIR TIME: Sunday afternoons at 6:00 p.m.

STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Direct TV and Others: You can stream HealthLine on your computers, but it must be done at the time it is aired. Go to CTVKnox.org, click the CTV icon and watch.



FEBRUARY 2015 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

- 01 - Understanding Liver Masses and Cancer - Dr. Troy Kimsey
- 08 - Brain Aneurysms - Dr. Michael T. Walsh
- 15 - TMR Laser Therapy for Angina - Dr. Thomas R. Pollard
- 22 - Spinal Stenosis - Dr. David Hauge

*There is One who
loves you beyond
your wildest
imagination--just
as you are! His
name is Jesus and
He died for you!!*



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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

