



Woodstock Presbyterian Church

# This Week

January 11, 2015



Last week, Mary and I were able to see the movie *Unbroken*.

*Unbroken* is a true war drama film depicting the story of USA Olympic athlete Louis "Louie" Zamperini, portrayed by Jack O'Connell. During World War II, Louie served on a bomber in the Pacific Ocean that came under fire and was shot down. Zamperini and two comrades survived in a raft on the Pacific Ocean, two of them enduring an incredible 47 days. Finally, they were rescued by the Japanese, but only to be sent to a series of ruthless Japanese prisoner of war camps.

Zamperini's story was first told in the 2010 non-fiction book *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*, by Laura Hillenbrand. That book has been on several national bestseller lists for several years.

Given its realistic depictions, *Unbroken* is not for children or for the fainthearted; it's rated PG-13. But it is an amazing story of survival and a strong human spirit. It also speaks poignantly about forgiveness because eventually Zamperini was able to forgive his Japanese capturers. When the movie concluded, the audience in the theater applauded, showing their approval of its message.



In 1949, Zamperini committed his life to Jesus Christ in a Billy Graham Crusade. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has released a DVD which tells more about Zamperini's faith that was not fully disclosed in the Hollywood movie. Zamperini died on July 2, 2014, at the age of 97.

Add another person to the Christian Hall of Fame, truly inspiring others to endure whatever hardship they may encounter.

Until next time, Pastor Don Esa



## Joys and Concerns

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."*  
(Romans 12:15)

**Joys:** Dick Pantley's birthday

**Healing:** Judy Haworth (prayers for easing of her pain); Chuck Wharton (recovering at Signature Marietta); Sue Mumbauer's father Bud Aiken (strength in fighting cancer); Rebecca Blackwell and her husband Wayne (Alzheimer's)

**God's comfort, help, guidance:** Pablo and Carmen Mercado as they move to California; the Mercado brothers here in Woodstock, Alpharetta; Ashley Moore's friend Michael in the death of his mother; Mike Mumbauer in the loss of his mother Adeline Mumbauer; Sharon Shuda, Kim and Jim Galloway in their job searches; college students Ashley Moore, Jayna Mumbauer; war against ISIS in the Middle East; our military personnel

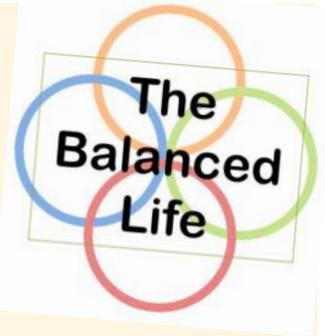
**Homebound:** John Graul, James Ray

**Woodstock/Trinity Churches, PCUSA:** Our Session, Pastor Esa, our music leaders

### Worship This Week

9:00 a.m.

Coffee at 8:30 a.m.



### The Balanced Life: The Mental

Luke 2:52; Proverbs 3:13-18;

James 1:5-8

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5)*

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held **Sunday, January 18th**, at the end of the worship service. There are two items of business: the election of another elder to serve on the session and the presentation of the 2015 budget. All members are encouraged to be present.



Mary and I sincerely thank you for your generous gift. This week as we were taking down our very used Christmas tree, we decided to use your money to get a new one. We found a great "After Christmas Sale" online. As we put up our Christmas tree next year, we will think of each of you. May God bless you in the coming year.

—Don and Mary Esa



It takes \$1487 each week in contributions to meet the budget at Woodstock Presbyterian Church, including the additional \$393 payment on the loan for the new roof. Recent offerings received:

Dec 14:	\$426.00
Dec 21:	\$684.76
Dec 24:	\$351.00 (for MUST Ministries)
Dec 28:	\$455.00
Jan 4:	\$2732.51

The session has asked each giving unit in the church to consider giving an additional \$5 per week over their regular church contribution to meet the loan payment on the new roof. Many have responded. Thank you for your continued support of your church.



**Woodstock Presbyterian Church**  
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Rev. Don Esa: 770-617-7676; [Pastor@WoodstockPCUSA.com](mailto:Pastor@WoodstockPCUSA.com)

Prayer team leader: Kathy Alston 770-926-6004

Pianist: June Cowan

Choir Director: Glenda McCullough

Administrative Assistant: Dyan Ransom

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