



“Because I Live, You Also Will Live”



In recent weeks I have reflected on the many examples of “new life” that have been visible in the media. The terrible tragedy in Japan resulting from the devastating earthquake and tsunami resulted in dramatic and heart wrenching stories including the four month old baby that survived for three days in the rubble to be found by dedicated Japanese Self-Defense Forces and joyously reunited with her family. The rebel uprising in Egypt that has resulted in the opportunity to develop a new, democratically approved constitution leading to the potential for open and democratic elections for the first time in the country’s history. And the story of Louis Zamperini, so eloquently portrayed in the book “Unbroken” by Laura Hillenbrand. Zamperini, a rebellious youth, becomes an Olympic track athlete only to be captured and interned in brutal POW camps in Japan during World War II resulting in a downward spiral into alcoholism before finding redemption and faith at a Billy Graham crusade.

Each of these stories describes a miracle of “new life” – a baby destined to die in the rubble gets another chance at life through the efforts of the rescuers – the people of Egypt who have suffered under an autocratic government for years have the prospect of new life through a new governance structure – Louie Zamperini transforms his life through the saving grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

This Easter, I encourage each of us to take the opportunity, not only to celebrate the risen Christ who died that our sins might be forgiven so that we can experience “new life”, but also to reflect on the many opportunities for “new life” we are given and the many opportunities we have to give “new life” to others in the work that we do each day serving our students and each other at Pepperdine. As the University motto states, “Freely Ye Received, Freely Give.” May we freely give because of the free gift of life given to us by Jesus Christ.

“Because I live, you also will live.”

John 14:19

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