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4300 Marsh Ridge Road • Suite 114 • Carrollton, TX 75010
972.267.1111 • 972.267.3535 (fax) • www.alarryross.com

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Steve Yount 972.267.1111, x205
steve@alarryross.com

Monica Sales 972.267.1111, x225
monica@alarryross.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Faith in God Enables Former POW To Forgive, Find Peace in ‘Unbroken:’

Laura Hillenbrand, Author of ‘Seabiscuit,’ Releases Second Book

DALLAS, Nov. 11, 2010 – [“Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption”](#) is a testament to the healing power of God’s grace.

“Unbroken,” coming Nov. 16 from critically acclaimed author Laura Hillenbrand, tells the story of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic athlete and Army Air Forces bombardier. In 1943, his plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean, and he floated for 47 days on a raft, surviving shark attacks, a typhoon and an attack from a Japanese bomber.

Although he did not have a strong personal faith at the time, he prayed to God at one point, “If you will save me, I will serve you forever.”

But his ordeal was far from over. Captured by the Japanese, Zamperini spent more than two years in a series of prison camps, where he was defiant in the face of horrible abuse and enslavement. Liberated at war’s end, he returned home a deeply haunted man, struggling to recover from his ordeal and find forgiveness for his captors. He had nightmares about his experiences and turned to alcohol for escape.

One night in 1949, his wife persuaded him to join her to listen to a young evangelist, Billy Graham, who was holding his first major crusade – the “Canvas Cathedral” event in Los Angeles. During Graham’s sermon, Zamperini remembered the words he had uttered on the raft in the ocean and committed his life to Christ.

“Love replaced the hate I had for those who had caused the nightmares in the first place, and ultimately I learned the power of forgiveness,” Zamperini says.

Later, he returned to Japan, met with most of his captors and forgave them.

Hillenbrand spent seven years researching and writing “Unbroken.” “The story and the man exercised a profound pull on me,” she says. “Under the most extreme punishment, what is it that enables men to endure, to overcome anger and humiliation, to defy? What is it that enables them to forgive, and why is forgiveness so powerful?”

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She came across Zamperini's story during her research for No. 1 New York Times bestseller "Seabiscuit," also published by Random House. "While studying a newspaper clipping about the racehorse, I happened to turn to the back of the page, where an article on Zamperini caught my eye," she says. "I began to read, and was immediately enthralled."

Hillenbrand praised him for graciously "opening his world" to her, sitting through some 75 interviews. Zamperini, who at 93 is still active in ministry in California, has endorsed the book.

"Seabiscuit," Hillenbrand's debut as an author, created a sensation when it was published in 2001. It was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and winner of the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award. It is the best-selling sports book of all time, according to Newsweek, with approximately 6 million copies in print. The film adaptation of "Seabiscuit" earned seven Academy Award nominations in 2003, including one for Best Picture.

For more information about Hillenbrand's long-awaited second book, please visit <http://www.alrcnewskitchen.com/unbroken>.

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Note to Editors: To arrange an interview with Louis Zamperini or Laura Hillenbrand, please contact Steve Yount of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or steve@alarryross.com.

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