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**A-ALL PEST TERMITE EXTERMINATORS, INC.**  
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# The Party Animal News

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## Amazing Grace & the Grinch

Ann discussed the book she'd read about John Newton, the writer of the hymn Amazing Grace, with me. One online description I saw said it was Newton's dramatic story of sin and salvation as a slave trader. Of course, I got more disturbing details from Ann's highlights from the book. His story reminded me of the book "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand, about the life of Louis Zamperini, a POW in Japan during WWII. He was targeted by the guards because he was a runner for the 1936 US Olympic team. Growing up he was picked on because he was Italian and after learning how to defend himself learned to relish getting even. That attitude and perseverance he learned helped him to survive the fiendish ordeal of the camps.

These two individuals from different centuries, cultures and countries eventually made a path to a redemptive life. Newton was transformed into a speaker against the horrors of slavery and became a famous preacher. When Zamperini returned to the US and was with his brother Pete, who was stateside during the war, everyone meeting the brothers thought Pete had been the POW because the worry from having a loved one in that unknown situation had actually aged him more. Unfortunately, Zamperini spiraled after the war into drinking and depression, almost destroying his marriage until he walked into a Billy Graham crusade in 1949. After the experience he gave his life to Christ, focused on forgiveness and Graham helped him become an evangelist. Angelina Jolie left all this out of her 2014 movie, which is astounding, as I personally believe it was the most important turning point in his life story. Thankfully, in 2018, a sequel was made using Graham's grandson to play him in the recreated pivotal scene.

It is interesting that Dr. Seuss (Theodor S. Geisel) wrote a story about a character, who was not very nice, hated everyone and enjoyed giving everyone a difficult time. But in the end, just like the two people above, a redemptive path was made for the Grinch. I have read books on Charles M. Schulz and the religious messages in his work (The Gospel According to Peanuts by Robert L. Short) and I just saw that there is "The Gospel according to Dr. Seuss" that I have not read. (*hint, hint Ann!*)

James C. McCormick was a customer many years ago. I came across a couple of books he gave me when cleaning out a book case that needed to be moved. They were interesting at the time I received them. He was 60 years old then, and since I'll be 63 this month, it was time to reread these gems and contrast my thoughts with his. He grew up in a religious household, poor during the depression and became a pilot in WWII. He lost one of his crewman and he could not forgive himself or God. So he decided to go at life on his own. He became physically fit and mentally determined to be wealthy. Unfortunately, one day he ended up with a form of polio that put him in an iron lung with all the horrors of that existence. In that hellish world, he slowly rediscovered God with one prayer for one improvement to his situation in that iron lung at a time.

When I met him he was in a wheel chair, but was now fighting cancer. Even with this new obstacle he still was in charge of Dallas Act Kind week. He died at the age of seventy and up until he died he continued to be in charge of the yearly event. The following was an excerpt of his last speech that was presented by his daughter in 2011, but given by him in 1995.

"Reflect on what happens to our world each December as the holiday season begins. We change our attitudes toward each other. We become more caring, kinder-not only to family and friends, but to people we've held grudges against, and strangers we pass on the sidewalk. Our faces change from scowl to a gentle smile. We look for ways to be friendly to our fellow man. Do I need remind us how infectious it is? Why does all of that have to change on January first? Let's make January 1<sup>st</sup> different. Let's declare a new year's resolution. To be kind to each other." From James C. McCormick last speech to Dallas Acts Kind campaign February 1995

And with that, have a Happy Holiday with your family and friends and a good 2024 filled with kindness. - David



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**Time to relax and rejuvenate**

*Please note we will be closed Dec 22-Jan 1 for the Holidays. Enjoy your time with your friends & family and we will return energized and ready to assist you in 2024!*

