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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Christians' lives keep others from hearing the Good News of Jesus, missionary writes**

GARLAND, TX--People can hear the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them endlessly, but only when they see His example lived out before them will they truly believe He can impact their lives, says missionary Kelly Malone.

Texas-native (Royse City) Malone, who daily observes spiritual darkness as he serves on the front lines of bearing Christ's message to Japan, says Christians' inconsistent, uncommitted, and often hypocritical lives drown out what they try to tell others about Jesus.

In his book, *Hearing Christ's Voice*, published by Hannibal Books, Malone says still no more than 10 percent of all the people in the world's population believes in Jesus as God the Son, Savior, and Lord, despite centuries of gospel advancement into the darkest corners of the globe.

For example, he says Japanese Christians do well in clearly explaining the gospel to their countrymembers, yet the Christian response in Japan is "practically nil." "For 150 years missionaries and Japanese Christians have continually asked why . . . God's Spirit (doesn't) move here and now," writes Malone. The missionary says he fears this is because some who proclaim the gospel there "haven't been transformed by its power. Nothing about the way they live indicates that the gospel has any power at all."

*Hearing Christ's Voice* reveals these radical ways that lukewarm Christians whose walk

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doesn't match their talk can modify their lives so they can demonstrate that Jesus is fully present in them:

- \* Don't just sit down and talk with adherents of other religions for the purpose of building goodwill. Christians are to tell others why they have based their own hope in Christ.

- \* Spend time with people so they can experience Christ's love through the person witnessing. Nonbelievers won't become disciples until Christians' actions show them how much Jesus cares for them.

- \* Call people to faith. After sharing with them, ask them whether they believe. Unless you ask people whether they believe in Jesus, telling them about Him does little good.

- \* Rather than explaining every facet of the meaning of eternal life, focus on helping people understand that Jesus cares for them and that they can trust Him as the source of eternal life.

- \* Emphasize the relationship with God rather than being obsessed with the doctrinal and ethical implications of God's revelation in Christ.

- \* Live selflessly; selfishness is a stumbling block causing nonbelievers to doubt that Christians practice what they preach. "Hearing Christ's voice causes us to remove ourselves from the center of our lives," Malone writes.

- \* Open every corner of your life to the Holy Spirit's work. Holding certain areas out of the Spirit's reach prevents Christians from being effective witnesses.

"How many times have we failed to lend a helping hand, to have a cup of coffee with a friend, to offer a word of encouragement, to visit the sick, or to run an errand because it seemed less important than the work that consumed our attention at the time?" he writes. "How do we know when a seemingly small deed of service will open the door to share a word about the love of Christ? Only God knows the potential of any person."

"The lost world says to those who claim to follow Christ, 'Never mind the resurrection! What proof do we have that Jesus lives unless we see that He lives in you?'" says Malone.

"If the world's peoples are to develop a renewed understanding of Who Jesus is, they are going to have to catch it from us. Talking about the kingship of Jesus will do little good if we also do not live lives that are yielded to his rule."

Malone, who holds a master's degree and doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, since 1992 has served in Japan with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is academic dean of the Christian Leadership Training Center in Tokyo. Kelly and his wife, Molly, have two children--Maggie and Kevin.

Paperback copies of the book are available for \$19.95 at Christian and secular bookstores throughout the country, as well as through online bookstores such as Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com and Walmart.com. Hannibal Books also offers the books through its own website, [www.hannibalbooks.com](http://www.hannibalbooks.com), as well as through 800-747-0738. ISBN: 0-929292-42-1.

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