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NEWS RELEASE

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HACHETTE BOOK GROUP/FAITHWORDS RELEASES NEW CHRISTMAS BOOK: JACOB'S BELL

(Mocksville, NC) – North Carolina author, John Snyder, has announced that Hachette Book Group's FaithWords imprint has purchased the rights to publish his latest book, *Jacob's Bell: A Christmas Story* and the book was released today in bookstores across the nation and online. The book is available in hardcover, as an e-book and as an audio book (CD and MP3 formats). Hachette Book Group is one of the "Big 5" publishers and its U.S. Headquarters is located in New York City, with FaithWords calling Nashville, TN home.

Jacob's Bell is the long awaited follow-up to Snyder's previously successful book, *The Golden Ring: A Christmas Story* which was released by Warner Books in 2001. Hachette Book Group/Faithwords beat out a competing publisher that also made Snyder an offer. "I chose Hachette Book Group/FaithWords because they were much larger and have the resources in place necessary to execute a multifaceted book launch," Snyder said. According to Keren Baltzer, Senior Editor at FaithWords, "We were very excited after reading John's manuscript for *Jacob's Bell*. We were intrigued by the story and immediately fell in love with it, thinking it was a perfect fit for our holiday lineup."

Some advance reviews are in and they're very positive. Brian Avery, a film producer at Yari Film Group in Los Angeles wrote: "*Jacob's Bell* by John Snyder is a splendid achievement and 'rings' with many truths. Snyder cares about his characters and makes us come to care as well. He gives us Jacob McCallum, a man who had it all until his addiction to alcohol took everything away and he lost his fortune, his family and his way in life. Snyder writes with simplicity and depth about the harshness and vagaries that life can bring but also about its beauty. He shows a reverence for the past and memories that may be from years ago but which are given as fresh and as near as this minute. His prose resounds with a love of people and the world and is grounded in the particulars of our America - its cities and byways, its taverns and highways. *Jacob's Bell* is a book that has, in my judgment, exceptional merit. It registers the redemptive power of forgiveness and love. I highly recommend it."

Jeff Sheets, former President of Echolight Movie Studios in Nashville, TN said, “*Jacob’s Bell* takes readers on a journey of success & failure, love & hate, bitterness & repentance. This tale promises to become a Christmas classic that transports each of us to many familiar and unfamiliar places all the while calling us to a place of forgiveness and restoration. *Jacob’s Bell* is a gift that reminds us of the TRUE meaning of Christmas and the forgiveness that comes when we trust in God’s indescribable gift ... his Son Jesus. *Jacob’s Bell* will hold a special place in our family library and Christmas tradition!”

Dan Angel, Film Producer and President of Fezziwig Studios in Los Angeles said, “I was so moved by John Snyder’s latest book, *Jacob’s Bell*. It reminded me of God’s blessings in our lives and how there is nothing more important than generosity, family, faith and forgiveness. With these things, the impossible becomes possible. John has reminded us why Christmas is so special, and I am truly blessed to have read this remarkable story. Amen.”

In his second book, Snyder returns to a historic Americana setting in the 1920s and 40s. Set in Chicago and Baltimore in 1944 with flashbacks to the 1920s, *Jacob’s Bell* follows Jacob McCallum on his arduous journey to redemption. Sometimes the road to forgiveness and restoration can be a rocky one.

At one time, Jacob had it all: wealth, a wonderful family and a position as one of the most respected businessmen in Chicago. Then he made some bad decisions and all that changed. For the past twenty years he lived in an alcohol-induced haze, riddled with guilt for the dreadful things he had done to his family and his role in the untimely death of his wife. Estranged from his children and penniless, he was in and out of jail, on the street and jumping freight trains for transportation. Realizing he needed a drastic change, Jacob embarked on a journey to find his children, seek their forgiveness, and restore his relationship with them. Befriended by a pastor at a Salvation Army mission, he struggled to transform his life. Yet finally he overcame his demons, but not without a fair number of setbacks. Jacob became a Salvation Army Bell Ringer at Christmastime. While ringing his bell on a street corner one snowy day, he met a young girl. Could she be the answer to Jacob’s forgiveness and restoration with his family in time for Christmas?

Author John Snyder pens a story of love, hardship, and reconciliation that will leave readers filled with Christmas joy. Readers can learn more by visiting Snyder’s website at www.johnsnyder.net.

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