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Richmond Author, Missionary During Vietnam Era Reveals Untold Side of Tragic War

For immediate release

GARLAND, TX—Thirty years ago as Americans pulled out of South Vietnam in the face of advancing communist troops, Sam James, a U.S. Navy Korean war veteran-turned-Baptist missionary, faced the gut-wrenching dilemma of whether to stay with the Vietnamese people he loved or to exit with the other Americans fleeing the country.

To stay meant confronting the triumphant communists and possibly death or prison for himself and the Vietnamese Christians with whom he had worked for 13 years. To leave meant abandoning the churches and people he loved deeply and in whom he had invested much of his life.

James wavered until the last days of South Vietnam—facing uncertainty, death and injustice all around him, as he tried to prepare Christians under his care for the violent and uncertain days ahead.

When he left on one of the last flights out of Vietnam, James didn't know until he returned 14 years later what happened to those he had mentored in faith. What he found was an amazing and rewarding surprise.

James details his years in Vietnam and his ultimate return in a fascinating new book, *Servant on the Edge of History: Risking All for the Gospel in War-Ravaged Vietnam*. The book reveals never-before-told aspects of the Vietnam War era and the following communist domination.

He shares harrowing tales such as his wife's narrowly escaping a bomb that destroyed the beauty parlor she had left 10 minutes earlier, his miraculous protection during a brutal, roadside Viet Cong raid, and his and his family's struggle to remain faithful to their calling to minister in Vietnam.

James details how an ex-Viet Cong member and a notoriously embittered man victimized by the Viet Cong let go of their hate for each other and eventually attend church services side by side.

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As American troops fight to forestall the advancing communist troops, James finds that he also must draw boundaries with his own country's military leaders who want to use him for espionage, which he refuses to do.

After returning to Vietnam in 1989 and in repeat trips afterward, James reports, "The astounding thing was that I, the teacher, the model, the discipler, had been led into the very presence of the Lord by my students, who now were modeling for me the very presence of Christ."

James encourages those interested in ministry work to examine their motives and be aware of intense challenges. At the close of each chapter, he poses thought-provoking, open-ended questions which can be used by adult Bible-study groups, missions groups, and in individual study.

"Sam James has incredibly taken us into most all of the biblical, then practical, decisions that must be faced and made with integrity before God and men," author of *Experiencing God* Henry Blackaby said in the foreword to *Servant on the Edge of History*.

Today, James and his wife, Rachel, reside in Midlothian, VA. Now retired and in his 70s, he continues to work on special assignments in high-risk areas. Throughout his 43 years of missionary service, he has planted churches, held leadership roles, and spoken at conferences in 100 countries.

Paperback copies of the book are available for \$12.95 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.hannibal-books.com, as well as through 800-747-0738. ISBN: 0-929292-66-9.

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Attention editors:

A photo or interview with the author is available by emailing publisher Louis Moore at louismoore@hannibalbooks.com or contacting Hannibal Books at 800-747-0738, or hannibalbooks@earthlink.net).