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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:

Julie Shultz julie@alarryross.com
Julie Shutley jshutley@alarryross.com
972.267.1111

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newly-released award-winning memoir available for giveaway:

'I am Hutterite' offers insight into secluded counter culture and advice for those who are different than the 'norm'

WHAT:

Mary-Ann Kirkby knows all too well the difficulties of trying to fit in. At the age of 10 she was thrust into a foreign universe that she didn't understand when her family left their secluded Hutterite colony and entered a startling, fast-paced Western civilization. Kirkby worked hard to adapt to a new way of life and a new identity by abandoning the culture that had defined her. She struggled to reinvent herself by denying her Hutterite heritage in an attempt to avoid the stigma and cruelty associated with being different. Finally embracing her role as a daughter of two cultures Kirkby has used her talents to chronicle her own life story in "I am Hutterite." The book not only portrays Mary-Ann's compelling story but also an inside look into the Hutterite traditions – something very few have shared.

[Publisher's Weekly's](#) recent review of this memoir states, "Kirkby captures the complex cadences of Hutterite life—the bawdy humor and knack for storytelling that stands beside austere ritual, the poverty of personal possession and freedom that exists beside the security of community life—with pitch-perfect writing. She also manages to avoid either vilifying or romanticizing a culture that has been subjected to both."

WHO:

Mary-Ann Kirkby is now an award-winning author and journalist. Her first book, "I Am Hutterite," was published in Canada in 2007 and has just been released in the U.S. by Thomas Nelson Publishing in early May 2010. The book has garnered rave reviews as readers react to the Kirkby's honest and compelling story told in her charming style. "I Am Hutterite" won the Saskatchewan Book Award for Best Non-Fiction in 2007.

Kirkby is available to discuss:

- Hutterite culture and traditions
- Communal living, which is a normal practice on Hutterite colonies
- Fitting in to a world that is different than your own
- Bullying
- Hutterites as pacifist
- Her own spiritual journey

WHEN: Copies of “I am Hutterite” are available for giveaway now through the end of May.

Mary-Ann Kirkby is available for interview by appointment.

DETAILS: Linked by their Anabaptist roots to the Amish and Mennonites, what sets the Hutterites apart is the common ownership of goods. It has distinguished them as the finest example of community life in the modern world. Contrary to their appearance, which has changed little since their beginnings as European peasants from the 16th century, the Hutterites have always embraced the most modern farm machinery and methods available on the market. The men wear black pants, jackets and hats and grow beards once they are married. The women wear a long five-piece ensemble and are distinguished by their polka dot head scarves.

Copies of “I am Hutterite” are currently available for shipment. The giveaways should be conducted between now and May 31. Please contact Julie Shultz, julie@alarryross.com or Julie Shutley, jshutley@alarryross.com or 972.267.1111 to make arrangements. Media information is available at www.iamhutterite.com.