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## **Christian Author Challenges Readers' Perceptions, Explores True Nature of Humanity in Book, '*Fidelis*'**

La Crosse, WI – Few fiction authors seek to challenge their readers with their literature these days. That's a trend Anthony Horvath would like to see changed. His new novel, *Fidelis*, is the first of a seven-book story arc that grapples with humanity's struggle through pain and suffering, and Horvath is not afraid to explore deep issues and topics with his readers.

*Fidelis* takes place in a not-too-distant or unlikely future, and tells the story of a man crossing the new landscape of an America that has been crippled by disease and ravaged by nuclear strikes, struggling to find his way home. As his journey reveals the horrors and wonders of the altered world, he awakens to realizations about his own soul.

Horvath, a church worker who became a trucker for a short time, said the series sprang into his mind during his last month on the road when he, like the main character, was separated from his family for long periods of time.

The intangible characteristics that make the human race indomitable are expressed as the book wrestles with truth and propaganda, manhood and bravery, fact and religion in an adventure story packed with action and suspense, as well as a deep examination of our own existence.

Christians might identify some parallel of Horvath's novel with the Epistles of Paul, particularly 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 and 2 Corinthians 6:3-10, but Horvath points out that his writing is not geared exclusively, or even targeted, for Christian readers.

"It is an exploration of what it means to be human, and an inquiry into what worldview best explains both man's goodness as well as man's badness," says Horvath. "You would think after this last century, we would not need to be reminded of man's badness, but it seems we do. In the Birth Pangs series, no reminder is necessary, just as after the holocaust no reminder was necessary."

An excerpt from the first chapter is available for free online at <http://www.birthpangs.com/download-part-of-chapter-1/>. The website hosts a spin-off role-playing game and a discussion board frequented by the author.

"Fidelis" (ISBN 0979127610) is the first book in the seven-book "Birth Pangs" series. It is available for purchase from <http://www.birthpangs.com>, as well as Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.