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Will the Pope watch Friends and Heroes?

All those who believe in the power of the Bible to change lives will be thrilled to hear that Friends and Heroes, the children's TV series containing exciting animated Bible stories, is to be shown on the 'DeAKids' Italian satellite channel. This means that even the Pope will be able to enjoy Macky's adventures!

The well-known Italian publishing group DeAgostini is to show Friends and Heroes on their newly launched children's channel which is broadcast on the Sky satellite. Friends and Heroes has been dubbed into Italian for its debut on DeAKids.

"That such a notable group as DeAgostini has recognised the wide appeal and entertainment value of Friends and Heroes by showing it on their children's channel is really thrilling," said Alison Dorricott, Executive Producer. *"DeAKids has a wide range of programming and it's good to know that Friends and Heroes will soon be part of their schedule alongside Garfield, Babar, Justice League and M.I. High! Soon Italian-speaking children will be able to enjoy the adventures of Macky and his friends and also hear and understand the Bible stories."*

Friends and Heroes is set during the height of the Roman Empire when their army was present throughout the known world! Keen to make the programme as accurate as possible, the research team learned much about Roman life in the period, including their engineering of ships and design of dock cranes! Even Roman food has been portrayed as faithfully as possible.

Probably best known in the UK for their Sticker Albums and Part-Work magazines, De Agostini will be broadcasting all three series of Friends and Heroes which will be completed later this year with the release of Series 3 set in the intriguing heart of the empire: Rome. *"We're delighted to add Friends and Heroes to the programme schedule of DeAKids and to premiere it for our Italian audience,"* said Pierfrancesco Gherardi, MD Digital De Agostini. *"The quality of the animation and the edutainment values of the show perfectly fit our editorial line and we are confident that will be highly appreciated by our audience."*

Since Friends and Heroes was first broadcast in Europe on the BBC satellite children's channel CBBC, and later on the terrestrial channel BBC2, international broadcast sales have grown considerably. Trinity Broadcast Network in the USA premiered Series 1 early in 2007 and other channels



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planning to launch Series 1 in 2009 include GoodTV in Taiwan and Sat7Kids in the Middle East. By mid 2009 Friends and Heroes will be broadcasting in English, Arabic, Italian, Russian and Chinese.

"Our intention when we made the series was that children all over the world would be able to see and hear Bible stories in a way that they love - through TV!" said David Dorricott, Executive Producer. *"We are currently dubbing Friends and Heroes into many more languages including: Arabic; Chinese (Mandarin); French; German; Hindi; Korean; Portuguese (Brazilian); Russian; Spanish (South American) and Manx Gaelic - of course."*

"We hope that Christians in this country will tell their Italian speaking friends about this new opportunity for children to see Bible stories on a mainstream channel. We'd also appreciate prayer that the programme will be shown in other countries and languages," continued David.

Friends and Heroes TV Series

Friends and Heroes is an exciting animated TV series featuring the adventures of Macky and Portia, two 14 year-olds and each episode weaves in stories from both Old and New Testaments of the Bible. As children watch our heroes' exciting escapades, they come to understand that the Bible has a great deal to offer when trying to decide what is right and what to do in today's world.

The full project comprises three series, each of thirteen episodes lasting 25 minutes: Series 1 is set in Alexandria, 69 AD; Series 2 in Jerusalem, 70 AD and Series 3 in Rome, 71 AD.

Award-winning animation

The programmes have been widely acclaimed, winning "Best Children's Programme" honours twice in the annual Christian Broadcasting Council Awards and winning an 'Adam' at the Sabaoth Film Festival in Milan, Italy. It has also received several top review ratings and many accolades from viewers including this comment from Rita: *"(Friends and Heroes) is my favourite TV show. It's funny and cool!"*

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To arrange interviews with members of the production team contact:

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Additional information about Friends and Heroes can be found on the following websites:

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