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PRESS RELEASE - Stand T1 - CRE, Sandown - 12-15 May 2009

Attract boys back to church!

*"Boys are seriously under-represented in church, and their specific needs seem a current blind spot in mission-shaped thinking. Educationalists are now addressing the underachievement of boys in schools; will churches also accept the challenge to become more boy-friendly?"** So says Nick Harding, Children's Officer - Diocese of Southwell.

Feedback from those involved in children's ministry tells us that boys really appreciate the male role-models and the exciting stories in Friends and Heroes. The lesson plans that accompany the programmes, using the Bible stories in each episode, make Friends and Heroes a great resource for all children's ministry!

Churches throughout the UK are already using Series 1 and 2 Packs and the Series 3 Pack will be completed in the next few weeks. That means there will be 39 episodes and over 80 Bible stories to inspire and encourage your children.

Friends and Heroes weaves Bible stories from both Old and New Testaments into a vivid, historical, animated adventure story. Children share in the adventure, recognising the courage and compassion needed to overcome the everyday dangers faced by Macky and his friends. And Macky learns that one person can make a difference - as a friend, or as a hero.

"Those who have used the programmes and lesson plans are united in their praise for this material", said Alison Dorricott, Executive Producer. *"What is more they tell us that this series is really effective in engaging boys - the exciting action and amazing adventures of our heroes really grab their attention! Teachers tell us that the usual request at the end of the lesson is 'Can we watch that again?'"*

Each episode, lasting 25 minutes, contains at least two Bible stories. The full project comprises three series of 13 episodes each: Series 1 is set in Alexandria, 69 AD; Series 2 in Jerusalem, 70 AD and Series 3 in Rome, 71 AD.

The Bible stories include: Daniel and the Lions' Den; The Parable of the Prodigal Son; Joseph and Pharaoh's Dreams; The First Pentecost and The Easter Story as well as lots of stories seldom tackled in children's materials.

"Friends and Heroes is great to use. Children engage with the mix of different cartoon styles. It's obvious when the 'cartoon story' moves in to retelling key stories from the Bible and makes the Bible accessible

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without trivialising or preaching. Its potential to help children learn is huge," said one teacher.

Friends and Heroes Series DVD Packs, costing £90, can be purchased from Christian Bookshops, DVD Sellers, or from www.friendsandheroes.com and include a lifetime series Public Display License.

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**Boys, God and the Church: How Churches Can Help Boys Grow in Faith...and Why They Do Not!* Nick Harding, Grove Books.

See the enclosed Editor's Notes for details of our amazing graphics and more information!

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:

www.friendsandheroes.com

www.friendsandheroes.tv