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PRESS RELEASE - 22 MAY 2009

One-in-four teens think violence is acceptable!

Friends and Heroes DVD18 shows how to deal with conflict!

A recent survey of teens in the USA reveals that one-in-four think that violence is acceptable and that a third think it's OK to "settle a score" violently!

The same survey also shows that many teenagers are lacking role models. Only about half (54 percent) cite their parents as role models and many said they didn't have a role model. This begs the question why more parents, teachers, clergy, politicians or business leaders are not viewed as role models - and what society can do to improve this statistic*.

"We wonder what these teens watched on TV as children in order to develop their ethical stances!" said David Dorricott, Executive Producer. *"In Friends and Heroes we regularly feature stories which could involve violence - the title of Episode 36 is 'Conflict' - but the message is always that violence is never the answer. If only other children's TV was as keen to spread that message. We also provide admirable role models for children through the behaviour of our main characters Macky and Portia!"*

DVD 18 is the penultimate release of Friends and Heroes Series 3 with Macky and Portia continuing their adventures in Rome - the intriguing heart of the ancient Empire. Released on Friday 22 May 2009, it includes Episodes 35: *Spies and Lies* and 36: *Conflict* and includes six computer-animated Bible stories taken from the ministry of Jesus. The themes are *"Doing Right"* and *"Seeing things differently"*. Each episode interweaves the 2D adventure story with the 3D Bible stories allowing the themes to develop in a very natural, child-friendly way.

Antonius is arrested



In Episode 35, *Spies and Lies*, Macky urges Antonius to speak out against Marcus in the Senate, but Antonius is reluctant to openly confront Marcus, reminding Macky of the importance of doing right when he tells the story of **Jesus riding into Jerusalem**. Macky responds with the story of **Jesus and the Moneylenders in the Temple**. Later Antonius



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is wrongly arrested after accusations by Marcus. To give Macky and Portia encouragement, Felix and Sophia tell the story of **Jesus healing a Paralysed Man**.

Marcus plots to rob Rome's Treasury

Episode 36, *Conflict*, begins with Toadie hoping to gain favour and payment by informing Antonius that Marcus is planning to rob Rome's treasury. Antonius tells **The Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard** to remind Macky that things can be seen differently. When Toadie appears asking to be rewarded, Macky tells him the story of **Jesus and the Widow's Offering** to explain how the poor woman quietly donated all she had. Later Macky and the Masked Rebel confront Marcus and his men inside the treasury and Antonius tells Macky the story of **Jesus and the Roman Tax**.



New interview with Portia - DVD Extra!

DVD18 tells viewers much more about Portia, Macky's Roman friend, in a special interview which can be accessed from the DVD's Extras menu. Portia Confidential reveals more about her life, what she thinks about Macky and The Friends of Jesus and especially about the stories they tell - plus she opens-up her wardrobe for the first time!

Every episode lasts twenty-five minutes and each DVD also includes fun extras such as quizzes and stills from the stories. Friends and Heroes DVDs cost £15 each and can be purchased from Christian Bookshops or direct from www.friendsandheroes.com

Teaching material involves boys!

Both school teachers and those involved in children's ministry are commenting on how the Friends and Heroes lesson materials gets boys really involved! Each set of lessons, which were created around the Bible stories in each episode, includes a wide variety of activities and tasks ideal for those children who don't learn as easily through purely spoken teaching. Created to complement the theme and values of each episode, the appropriate lessons are available free to any church or school which purchases a Series Presenters' Pack. Costing just £90, each Pack includes a FREE lifetime series Public Display Licence (usually £25 per year).

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*Background information: http://www.ja.org/about/releases/about_newsitem524.asp

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

www.friendsandheroes.com

www.friendsandheroes.tv