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Children's TV Show handles today's big issues... People trafficking and Child disability feature in Friends and Heroes!

Introducing sensitive moral issues to children is a delicate task. If you are too explicit you may traumatise the child but they must recognise the injustice in order to engage with it!

The latest Friends and Heroes DVD includes stories about a child with a disability and the issue of people trafficking but they are so sensitively handled that even young children can see the issues AND know how to respond!

"We have included stories about issues like these to ensure that Friends and Heroes is both effective and relevant to today's children," said David Dorricott, Executive Producer. *"By placing these stories in our fictional adventure story and then showing a Bible story which suggests an appropriate response, we have a non-traumatic way of teaching children about such delicate issues. It is amazing to see how a story set in the first-century AD can be so contemporary - the Romans were well known for enslaving captured people and then transporting them throughout the empire - we'd call that trafficking today!"*

In DVD 17, the next release of Friends and Heroes Series 3, Macky and Portia continue their adventures in Rome - the intriguing heart of the ancient Empire. Released on 3 April 2009, it comprises Episodes 33: *Rome Alone* and 34: *Give and Take* and includes four great new Bible Stories. The themes are "Having Faith" and "God's Care For Us" and it is through the interweaving of the 2D adventure story and the 3D Bible stories in each episode that the themes are developed in a child-friendly way.

Felix deals with Toadie



In *Rome Alone*, Episode 33, Felix, who hasn't spoken since his mother's death, finds that his apparent disability is a positive advantage when dealing with an intruder in his home! Senator Marcus has told Toadie to spy on Antonius which means that Antonius spends more time at home with his son Felix and discovers that he is being left out socially

because he won't speak. By telling the story of **Jesus healing Blind Bartimaeus**, Antonius encourages Felix to have faith. With Antonius out-of-action, Absolom suggests Macky steps into Antonius's shoes encouraging

him with the story of **Samuel anointing Saul**. Toadie is determined to find out what secrets Antonius's home holds but when he finally enters the villa he is in for a big surprise!

Slaves destined for the arena are rescued

Macky and the Masked Rebel rescue a group of slaves, trafficked from all over the empire, from certain death in the Circus Maximus and take them into hiding in Episode 34, *Give and Take*. Absolom encourages the slaves with the story of how **Elijah was fed by a poor widow**. Marcus blackmails ex-gladiator Babatunji into helping him capture Antonius but the scheme goes wrong and Macky and Antonius must find a way to rescue him. Once released, a dazed Babatunji and an unconscious Toadie are taken to a safe house. **The Parable of the Lost Sheep** helps Babatunji to understand how God cares for us all.



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

Quality teaching material created for every episode

The release of each Friends and Heroes DVD is accompanied by the creation of both School and Bible lesson material for those involved in child education and ministry. Created to complement the theme and values of the episode, these lessons are available free to any church or school which purchases the Series Presenters' Packs. Costing just £90 each Pack includes a FREE lifetime series Public Display Licence (usual cost £25 per year).

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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:

www.friendsandheroes.com

www.friendsandheroes.tv