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AUTISM IN AMERICA: Joni and Friends Provide Clarity Between Myth and Truth in Two-Part Series, 'Making Sense of Autism'

AGOURA HILLS, Calif., February 24, 2010 – According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in every 110 children in the U.S. will be diagnosed with some form of autism, increasing 57 percent on average from the 2002 study. With such alarmingly growing statistics, [Joni and Friends](#) (JAF), advocates for the more than 660 million voices in the global disability community, has created a two-part television episode demystifying the myths of autism and providing truth regarding an often misdiagnosed disability.

“Making Sense of Autism” brings the viewers into the lives of families affected by autism to witness their joys and frustrations. Hosted by author and disability advocate Joni Eareckson Tada, these episodes from her award-winning television series feature advice from parents, pastors, experts and teachers who address the issues surrounding autism. Part 1, “Myths That Hide the Truth,” is scheduled to air on Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) on March 14 and National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) March 12 and 16, followed by Part 2, “Truth for the Church,” on TBN March 21 and NRB March 19 and 23. DVDs and study guides for the series are also available through www.joniandfriendstv.org.

“The American mosaic includes those with disabilities. Since April is Autism Awareness Month, we want to inform and educate the public about this disability and provide a snapshot into the lives of families affected by autism,” Tada said. “Awareness dispels fear and encourages community. It is our hope that, through this series, many more people can come alongside those with autism and their caregivers, working together in understanding and love.”

JAF continues to serve the disability community through the [Christian Institute on Disability](#) and the International Disability Center, offering a wide array of life-affirming ministries to people with disabilities around the world, including international radio and television programs filled with inspirational stories. Wheels for the World sees thousands of individuals receive wheelchairs and the life-giving message of the Gospel. Every year families affected by disability learn that they are not alone when they attend Family Retreats across the U.S. and around the world.

Note to Editors: For more information about the Joni and Friends television programs, to request review copies, or to arrange an interview with Joni Eareckson Tada or JAF representatives, please contact Melany Ethridge of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or melany@alarryross.com.