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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'Theo' Joins with Angel Tree To Spread Message of Hope This Christmas

Thousands of Children of Prisoners Will Get Christian Animated Series as Gift

BURBANK, Calif., Dec. 1, 2011 – The creators of the animated series ["Theo"](#) will team up with [Angel Tree](#) this Christmas to bring the message of Jesus to thousands of children of incarcerated parents around the world.

"These children are the forgotten victims of crime," said Mike Joens, the creator of "Theo." "I hope 'Theo' can bring a little laughter into their lives while teaching them what the Christian faith is all about."

Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, is encouraging gift buyers in its 8,000 participating churches to include a "Theo" DVD with their Angel Tree gift. Prison Fellowship also will encourage its regular donors to go to a special website, www.theoandangeltree.com, and buy a copy of "Theo" for their families and purchase one for an Angel Tree child as well. Whitestone Media, the producer of "Theo," will give Angel Tree \$5 for every DVD purchased through the site. "Theo" retails for \$14.99.

"We are very pleased with the opportunity to put 'Theo' in the hands of Angel Tree children. This delightful animated series is a gift that Angel Tree children and their families will enjoy watching over and over as they grow in their faith," said Garland Hunt, President of Prison Fellowship.

Angel Tree began in 1982 when Prison Fellowship erected a Christmas tree at a Birmingham, Ala., mall with children's names written on paper ornaments shaped like angels. Local people purchased gifts for each child on behalf of their incarcerated parents. Since then, the program has served nearly 9 million children in more than 90 countries and grown to be a year-round ministry, including mentoring and camping.

Last year, nearly 374,000 children of prisoners received gifts through the Angel Tree program.

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"Theo" uses high-quality animation, timeless Bible stories and liberal doses of humor to guide young-at-heart audiences through a systematic study of the foundations of Christianity. The release of the DVD Sept. 13 represented the culmination of a dream that began for Joens 33 years ago, when he started working in the animation industry for studios such as Hanna Barbera, Filmation, Warner Brothers and Marvel Productions.

The first DVD in the series, "God's Love," includes three full-length episodes, "Saving Faith," "Loving Obedience" and "Forgiveness," as well as the bonus episode, "Good News," which features a presentation of the Gospel. The animated series is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Hindi and Japanese.

For more information about "Theo," please visit www.theopresents.com. For more information about Angel Tree, please visit www.angeltree.org/.

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Note to Editors: For more information or to arrange an interview with one of the creators of "Theo," please contact Steve Yount of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or steve@alarryross.com.