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4300 Marsh Ridge Road • Suite 114 • Carrollton, TX 75010
972.267.1111 • 972.267.3535 (fax) • www.alarryross.com

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Melany Ethridge 972.267.1111
melany@alarryross.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joni and Friends Television Now Available in Russia: Disability Ministry's Programs Reach Millions Around the World, Provide Encouragement to Largest Unreached People Group

AGOURA HILLS, Calif., June 17, 2010 – [Joni and Friends Television](#), the broadcast ministry of the [Joni and Friends International Disability Center](#), broadcasts its encouraging and uplifting TV series on multiple networks and stations around the U.S., but has recently been reaching a rapidly growing audience overseas. Beginning this summer, Joni and Friends TV will be carried via the CNLTV Network to 20 million homes in Russia and other regions where the Russian language is spoken. These include Ukraine, Israel, Germany, several nations in Europe, former Soviet Muslim republics in Central Asia and the Middle East, and even the United States.

“We are excited to be able to extend the ministry of Joni and Friends to so many more people with disabilities and their families and communities around the globe,” said ministry President and COO Doug Mazza. “For many of these individuals – members of what is, in essence, the largest unreached people group in the world – this may be the only presentation of the Gospel message, or indeed any hope or encouragement, that they ever receive.”

The Joni and Friends television series is one of the ministry's key tools for sharing the Gospel message. Available to people around the world in at least 84 countries, television is giving Joni and Friends the opportunity to minister to more than 650 million people with disabilities, approximately 10 percent of the world's population.

This 30-minute weekly program, hosted by ministry founder [Joni Eareckson Tada](#), highlights an unusually open and honest approach to tough questions about the goodness of God in a world shattered by pain and suffering. The TV series presents a dramatic and powerful look into the lives of real people who have endured, or are still living through, heart-wrenching trials. Tada and her guests put Scripture to the toughest of tests, showing why God is worth believing and how to trust Him in the worst of times.

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In addition to the Russian network, the series is carried on The Miracle Channel throughout Canada; on EFR Medien to Germany and German-speaking countries in Europe; on the Australian Christian Channel to Australia, Indonesia and New Zealand; on United Christian Broadcasters, Ltd., to the United Kingdom; on Sphere TV in the Ukraine; on Alfa Omega TV in Romania; and throughout Mexico and the Caribbean as well as the U.S. and Canada via Global Christian Network. Altogether, these international networks virtually reach a worldwide audience.

Trinity Broadcasting Network first began carrying Joni and Friends TV in 2008, reaching a potential audience of 3 billion around the world. This number has been increased by an additional 84 million with the other networks now carrying the program.

Other U.S. outlets currently airing the program include: Cornerstone Network, based in Pittsburgh, with 70 affiliates; Legacy TV based in Odessa, Fla.; Liberty Channel based in Lynchburg, Va.; My Family TV (formerly Faith TV) based in Clearwater, Fla. (also carried on DirecTV); KJEO 32.4 (Manavision3) in Sanger, Calif.; KGSC 47 in Cheyenne, Wyo.; KNXT TV (Catholic Television) based in Fresno, Calif.; Starfish Network based in Salt Lake City (carried on Dish Network); The Dove TV in Medford, Ore.; WATC TV in Atlanta; WAZT TV in Woodstock, Va.; WLMB TV 40 in Toledo, Ohio; WVCY TV in Milwaukee; WTWV TV in Memphis, Tenn.; and WRXY TV, an affiliate of Christian Television Network, in Punta Gorda, Fla.

Joni and Friends continues to serve the disability community through its 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. The Joni and Friends [Christian Institute on Disability](#) equips the Christian community to engage in bioethics and value of life issues. More information can be found online at the ministry's new website, www.joniandfriends.org.

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