

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 10 MARCH 2007

Spring Harvest launches a comic

Spring Harvest is delighted to announce *The Exile Road* – a brand new children’s comic book resource based on the theme of Hope and written by Paul Kercal.

Author of the critically acclaimed *Dr Sylver* books, Paul Kercal trained as an animator before embarking on a decade working in computer games art and design. Going back to the sketchpad was a lot of fun when he was asked to create teaching material and content for Spring Harvest this year, “I’m delighted with both the results and the reaction to the work so far.”

Released at Spring Harvest this year, *The Exile Road* will be used in the children’s programme to communicate the event theme of One Hope to children aged 5-11 in an easy, interactive way. Beyond Spring Harvest 2008, the 72-page story book is also a great Sunday school resource and will be available to buy in special packs with accompanying notes on how to best use the comic with children.

The Exile Road follows three people caught in the after effects of destruction, a lost war and enforced ethnic transplantation. Johabim and Simoan are brothers who are orphaned during the Babylonian ransacking of Old Testament Israel. Along the way they meet Martha, an old woman with ties to the deposed royal family, who cares for them on the road on which they are forced down. As the story starts all three are sold into slavery and an uncertain future.

The content of the book is extremely varied. Paul notes, *“The themes of the comic are pretty meaty but very hard to put across to an age range that takes in all of the primary school years and the start of secondary school with a wide range of additional ages showing interest. It’s a sensitively told collection of stories that capture some of the heartache of their situation as well as some of the fun side of child and brotherhood. In addition to the central storyline there’s a number of pages that kids can participate in, ranging from ‘how to draw’ lessons to suggestions on how to get involved in helping to change the world for the better, a cameo from members of the rock band Onehundredhours as well as a few visits from a very knowledgeable superhero called ‘Trivia Man’...”*

The comic is drawn in a variety of styles with the predominant look being a water colour wash pencil style.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

For media enquiries only contact: Rebecca E Bowater, Marketing Administrator, on 01825 746513 or alternatively email: press@springharvest.org

For more details about The Exile Road and future downloads to accompany the comic, log onto www.springharvest.org

More details on Paul Kercal can be found at www.kercal.co.uk