



News and Prayer Requests from the My Father's House Project in Olinda, Brazil



8 January 2009

1. SAMS are to make Siméa a **Latin Partner** when Ian retires in the middle of this year. This is good news and will mean funding going to the diocese for the work Ian and Siméa are doing in Olinda.
2. There is no progress on selling the **house**; it seems too big for most potential buyers.
3. **Jefferson** is going to work at My Father's House for 12 months and he and the family are moving to live closer to the shelter.
4. There are other **staff issues** to sort out, the cook being one. David and Hannah are coming to the end of their stays, and a man called Will from York is there for two months; also an Australian is visiting for a month. Val is still awaiting her visa.
5. There are **7 boys** resident at present and **5 candidates** waiting to go to the shelter.
6. **Two camps** are arranged for this month. The first, 14th to 17th, for 50 young people between 13 and 17 from the day school - an unchurched group so it will have an evangelistic theme. The second, 20th to 24th, will have 25 young people from My Father's House and the team group from Living Waters, most of whom are Christians; so the theme will be building faith and worship.
7. Big things are happening with the **Christian Family Support Centre** project which is under the umbrella of My Father's House and is being run in the buildings opposite Living Waters Church. At present **250 children and families** are involved and more are wanting to join the project. There is a team of **25 people working in groups**; more are required and therefore more finance is needed. This is very difficult work as the families have major behavioural problems; guns are around a lot of the time and there is a lot of violence and aggression to deal with. There are meetings every day to plan and deal with issues. It all sounds very exciting that these families want something better, but the project is hard and dangerous work and prayer is needed against both physical and spiritual battles going on.
8. Siméa was very adamant to point out that the **LOVE OF GOD** comes first and the teaching and social issues follow. She told us of the **wife of a violent drug dealer** who gave her life to Christ and is now hearing the Lord speak to her. The husband has left the house and Siméa is praying for his conversion too. The project still needs 9,000 Reals for more rooms plus a project which would bring a psychologist and social worker on board.
9. Financial priorities at present are:
 - **salaries** for workers at My Father's House
 - the **classrooms** on the *favela*
 - a new **van** for transporting the boys
 - enough money to refurbish the **farm** and salaries to staff it to enable very disruptive boys to have time there to come off substances and calm down before going to My Father's House and joining the project CCFF.
10. **Richard Crofts** of SAMS joined us this time; as he had recently visited Ian and Siméa he was able to share with us a vision he had while there. He was very aware of the Lord's peace which is in Living Waters, the church and compound, and how evil the *favela* is, how the peace disappears on leaving the compound. He had a picture of evil hammering at the doors. Siméa is hit all the time when on the *favela* and Richard feels she needs someone with her as she goes about her work. The **spiritual warfare is constant and fierce**; it is a violent place both physically and spiritually. Siméa is held in high regard and respected on the *favela* but is under spiritual oppression all the time which is very tiring. Siméa is always tired, so please pray into all these issues and help her fight the battle.



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