

## News from My Father's House, Olinda, Brazil

**16 May 2008**

Dear friends,

I hope that you're all well. I'm just sending out this email to ask for your prayers specifically for a boy called Adenilson. I apologise to my non-Christian friends who are receiving this email, what I have to say may seem weird but I do not want to hide what I believe or the consequences that arise due to faith in God. You can trust me that what I say is true and very real, feel free to talk to me if you have any questions.

Adenilson is the newest boy in the house, he is 15 and came to us because his life was in danger from the gangs. He gave his life to the Lord around a month and a half ago and became a Christian. Adenilson's family are/or have been involved in 'Macumba' which is one of the spiritualist and Devil worshipping movements in Brazil. When Adenilson was a child his life would have been offered to the Devil, his family's involvement (especially his Mother's) in Macumba and his involvement in drugs and gangs would have brought him more under the Devil's control.

I say this because for the past 3 nights the Devil has attacked Adenilson while he's been sleeping and took control of him. Adenilson sleeps in the same room that I do when I sleep in the project. The first night I woke up because Adenilson was screaming in his sleep, his eyes were tight shut and I couldn't wake him up. I asked him what was wrong and he began to scream 'fire!' 'fire!'. Eventually I managed to wake him up and he went back to sleep. I thought that he just had a bad dream but the next night I was woken up again by him screaming and this time he threw himself from the top bunk onto the floor and struggled there on the floor with his eyes tight shut. Once again I tried to wake him, this time I knew that it was something worse than just a bad dream and I called one of the other workers and we began to pray. Adenilson was screaming 'I'm going to get you!', I asked him if he knew who I was and he screamed 'You're Andy and I'm going to get you!'. Eventually he came out of it with a start and he went back to bed. In the morning Adenilson says he doesn't remember anything that happened.

Last night was the worse as Adenilson once again began to shout and scream. He began to walk around the house with ease, without bumping into things, with his eyes tight shut. He said that he was going to get a knife from the kitchen and kill all of us, he shouted my name and the names of the workers and some of the boys and began to laugh. We asked who it was and Adenilson replied in a strange, deep voice... 'Adenilson is mine and I'm going to destroy him!'

God is stronger, more powerful and has already defeated the Devil. We prayed along with some of the older boys and anointed the house and Adenilson with oil. We told the spirit in Adenilson to look at us, to open his eyes, but he wouldn't – scared to see the power of God in the Christians around him. Eventually Adenilson was released and one of the other boys said that he felt and heard a 'whoosh' as this happened. Adenilson doesn't remember anything.

This is just the surface and beginning of the spiritual battle that exists within Adenilson and in this project. I thought for a long time about whether I should send this email and I decided that I would to ask you to pray for Adenilson, for us and for the project.

Thanks for reading and for your continuing prayers and support!

Andy Roberts

**16 May 2008 (1)**

Just a quick update on Jonata and Diego - the 2 boys who ran away last month.

Some sad news first, Jonata was shot yesterday morning. Thankfully he's still alive but in a critical condition in one of the huge public hospitals (which doesn't really help since he'll have to wait for hours to see a doctor). We don't really know many details - only thing I know is that he was shot various times in the back sometime yesterday morning. The more worrying question is who shot him? It could have been the gang from the favela who wanted him dead in the first place (the

reason why he came to the project), or the gang he joined close to the project when he ran off, or someone else. I'm hoping to go and see Jonata in hospital either today or tomorrow. He needs to wake up and realise that if he continues along with this life then the next time he will be killed.

On a happier note, Diego returned to the project last night. please pray for both diego and jonata.

## **16 May 2008 (2)**

Hi guys,

For those of you who were asking - Jonata is only 13 years old!

Me and another worker called Boto went to see Jonata in hospital yesterday. We got to the hospital and the security guards wouldn't let us in so we called Jonata's mum to come down and get us. After literally 2 hours of trying to meet up with his Mum we discovered we were at the wrong hospital! Eventually we got to the right hospital and met Jonata and his Mum.

He'd just been discharged (typically Brazilian public hospital - as long as you can walk and have a bandage on you can leave!). It was good to see him and he was really moved that we had come. He was shot once in the back - the bullet hit his shoulder, breaking it, and then came out the other side. The guy who shot him was obviously aiming for his head. We were able to have a good chat with him pleading with him to change his life because if not, the next bullet will get either his head or heart.

Please pray that this will wake him up to what he's doing!

Jonata cannot return home because the guys are staking out his home to finish the job off if he returns. I asked Jonata what had happened and he told me a lie about dirtying one of the gang members shorts... I told him he was lying and he eventually told us half the truth - he had got into an argument with a gang member - and was told to pick up a pistol to defend himself and then was shot. This still isn't the whole truth. It seems that Jonata has done something a lot worse to cause the gang to stake out his house - they wouldn't do that just over a pair of shorts or an argument.

Jonata's uncle came and we gave them all a lift to the bus terminal where we gave Jonata and his uncle some money to go to the interior to his other grandmother's house. We were then able to take Jonata's mother home; she was crying in the back of the car so we were able to talk to her as well.

So me and Boto have done what we can... we've tried to talk to him, re-orientate him, show him that God has given him another chance. All we can do now is entrust Jonata into God's hands.

I don't know if I'll see Jonata again... I hope that I will, but I'm still worried for him, he's already been to his grandma's house once before but couldn't stay because she couldn't look after him. If he goes back to his mum's house he'll be killed. I hope that the child welfare can find a suitable project for him.

Thanks for reading - sorry for the long update. Thanks for your support and prayers.

Andy