

**News and Prayer update from Andy Roberts at My Father's House, Olinda, Brazil, 20 September 2008**

Well, it's been a while since we've had a mid-month update, hasn't it!? I'm sending this one out to let you in on a worrying situation and to ask those of you who pray to pray!

There are a number of governing bodies who have a say in what happens in the project and one of them is the local Judge who has power to place or take out a boy in the project. We have just got a new local Judge and unfortunately she is very strict and keeps to the law word for word.. well that's a good thing, you might think, but Brazilian law states that a child can no longer be kept in a project such as ours when his life is no longer at risk and he has some sort of family - he has to go back to his family. Unfortunately, this law doesn't take into consideration what kind of 'state' the family is in since most of the families of our boys are in no way suitable or capable to look after them. The worrying thing is that this Judge does not listen to this side of the argument and already sent one of our boys, Ricardo, home a few months ago; he is now back on the streets.

We heard this week that this Judge has summoned Rodrigo and Michel to see her this Monday (22<sup>nd</sup>) - they are two of our oldest and more mature boys. They have no real problems at all but their families are in a state - Michel's Dad is in prison for murdering his Mum and Rodrigo's Mum has mental problems and cannot look after him. We're worried that the Judge will not listen to us again and send them home. If she does then all the work will go to waste as they will be forced to go back to street life to survive.

It's complete madness as she has no regard to what kind of family she is sending them back to and the implications that will have on their 'risk of life' - they will soon get that risk back when they return to the streets.

So please pray.

Andy