

Welcome to the August issue of Retrak's Prayer E-News. We are so grateful to you for your commitment to pray for the work we are doing around the world. We see daily how prayer changes things and we give thanks to each one of you for being part of that change.

These last couple of months have brought much uncertainty here in the UK, politically, economically, and regarding security and peace. In some ways this is a parallel to the life experienced by many children living on the streets. What should our response be to both the 'macro' and the 'micro' in this current climate? The famous words of Micah should, I believe, help us here. 'He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' One way we can do all three of these is to pray – and I thank you again for joining with us in praying for the children and families we at Retrak are called to serve.



In this issue of Prayer e-news, as athletes from around the world converge on Brazil, we ask you to pray for our partner ABTH in Rio de Janeiro and for the impact this great world event will have on the lives of children living on the streets in Rio.

Our work in Brazil

Despite the economic struggles, with the Olympics fast approaching, Brazil has been doing everything it can to appear shiny, new and without blemish. But underneath the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue lies a city with thousands of highly vulnerable children, many forced onto the streets through poverty, drugs and violence. As the people pour into Rio over the coming weeks, bringing wealth and enjoying the events, the risk of child exploitation rises, and so too, our need to pray.



Since October 2015, Retrak has been working in partnership with a national agency called Associacao Brasileira Terra dos Homens (ABTH) to help the highly vulnerable children. Hugo*, aged 15, is just one of thousands of these children on the streets of Rio. His father was murdered in drug gang conflict when he was a small boy and he now lives with his mother and three younger siblings in a small house in one of the many favelas. They barely have enough money to get by.

Having missed much school, Hugo can hardly read or write and hates school. With an unstable family situation, Hugo drifted to spending nearly all his time on the streets. From the age of 11, he started working for the drug bosses, getting paid in crack and soon becoming addicted.

Hugo was picked up by the police a year ago and taken to one of the government shelters for street children where he came into contact with Retrak's partner (ABTH). He is back at home with his family again, but there is still a long way to go. He has started to work at the airport as a shoe-shiner and is earning some money to contribute to the household, which he likes. He is now showing some interest in doing some catch-up lessons so that he can learn to read and write. The team are helping him overcome his addiction and to see a brighter future away from the violence and drugs on the street.



Sadly, there are many children in Brazil with a similar story to Hugo's. With the world's eyes focussed on Rio in August, let us pray that we don't just look at gold medals, records broken and the glamour of the big stadiums but that the world would see more clearly the plight of vulnerable children in Rio, to raise awareness of their struggles and to uphold their needs before our loving Heavenly Father. (**Name changed to protect the child's identity*)

Please pray:

- That highly vulnerable children would stay safe from exploitation and abuse during the Olympics
- For our partner, ABTH, as they work to make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families in Brazil

Kimbilio – Democratic Republic of Congo

Retrak works in partnership with Kimbilio, running transition centres for vulnerable children in the heart of Lubumbashi.

13 year old Mateso* had been living on the streets for a year. He came to Kimbilio in 2015 but due to communication difficulties because of his hearing impairment he did not stay and soon ran back to the streets. With no way to communicate, there appeared little hope for him to start school, until Kimbilio staff heard about a local school for the deaf. On a visit there Mateso was taught how to sign his name, shown the facilities, and most importantly – the bed! Kimbilio hopes to maintain contact with Mateso and encourage him to settle back to education at this school. (**Name changed to protect the child's identity*)

Please pray:

- Pray for an increase in funds for Kimbilio to reach out to more of the nearly 5,000 highly vulnerable children on the streets of Lubumbashi, and that through the dedicated staff, the children would know God's love and care.

2015 – 2016 Annual Report

Our 2015 – 2016 Annual Report is now available via our website. This year we decided on producing a digital resource which we hope you will find more accessible (and which reduces postage so more money to our projects!).

2015 was a year of transition and consolidation for Retrak leading to some exciting new projects starting this year. We said a sad farewell to Diarmuid ÓNéill, and welcomed Sir Peter Fahy as our new CEO. We want to thank our staff, supporters and trustees for all their efforts and look forward to working with you all to ensure that no child is forced to live on the street.

[Retrak 2015 – 2016 Annual Report](#)

We give thanks for the part you play in realizing our vision of “A world where no child is forced to live on the street”. It is a bold vision but with God's grace, Retrak's proven model of care, and your support, it's a reality we are already moving towards.

