

News update and subjects for prayer – FEBRUARY 2018

.....*whoever is kind to the needy honours God. Proverbs 14:31*

Feb 1/2 Please continue to pray for the **UK Trustees** as they meet today Thursday February 1st and regularly throughout the year - Keith, Michele, Bob, Samantha, Rob, Sarah and Fran. Pray that they will have wisdom and discernment in the decisions they take and guidance they give to the compassion ministry of Hands of Mercy.

Feb 3/4 Give thanks to God that the large Cargo Boxes sent to Hands of Mercy Philippines have arrived safely. The families were delighted to receive the food, clothes and medical items that supporters in the UK gave and especially at the 20th Anniversary gathering. We hope to send another box at the end of February, and if you live in the Luton area and would like to bring food and medical items to the Hands of Mercy UK office (address overleaf) the families in the squatter areas of Mandaluyong would be very grateful (i.e. pasta, spaghetti, corned beef, spam, biscuits, sweets, also paracetamol, antiseptic cream, Lemsip, toothpaste, soap etc. Items need to be brought to the UK office by **February 28th**)

Unpacking the UK boxes in Mandaluyong, Manila



Giving out the box items



Feb 5/6 Please continue to pray for David Gunn, the Founder of Hands of Mercy International, who has recently arrived in the Philippines for a six months visit. For those of you who know David, it will not surprise you to know that his passion for the Hands of Mercy ministry remains as strong as ever. Please pray that David will have God's wisdom and guidance as he focuses his attention on where he can add the most value for the future of the compassion ministry of Hands of Mercy. He will work with the Director and the HOM staff to review the current work and the future direction/growth of the ministry.

Feb 7/8 The **Family Support Programme** is an enormous help to the very poor and needy families in Mandaluyong, many of whom need to scavenge each day to afford a meal. Most of the husbands of the beneficiaries do not have a permanent job so the rice and groceries the families receive twice a month help them to survive. Hands of Mercy needs more sponsors to help these people receive supplementary food each month. Please pray that God will nudge concerned individuals to offer to sponsor a "family" with food items. **£20 a month would make a major difference in a family's life. Please contact the UK office on 01582 416151 if you would like to help a family.** At the moment we have 13 families waiting for help.

Feb 9/10 **Disabled Therapy Programme** – Hands of Mercy continues to partner with the Mandaluyong City Government and project TEACH in which we have a Memorandum of Agreement for disabled children in the Welfareville Community, offering literacy training and physical therapy using the Hands of Mercy Centre in Block 38 and at Lingap Karunungan Centre in Block 22. The HOM staff also continue with Home Care therapy. There are 1,000 patients being catered for at the Lingap Karunungan Centre and ten patients under Home Care base therapy. During 2017 Hands of Mercy received a plaque of appreciation from the City government for its commitment and dedication to the work amongst the disabled children of Mandaluyong. Please continue to pray for the staff as they work tirelessly for children who have special needs.

Feb 11/12 Valentine's Day is celebrated widely in the Philippines with many cards and gifts being sold! Please remember in prayer the married ladies on the staff of Hands of Mercy – that they will have good relationships with their husbands and that their love for each other will increase. Please pray for the husbands who have yet to make a spiritual commitment to God.

Feb 13/14 Because of flooding and fire, the **Home Improvement Programme** has grown considerably. When funds allow, Hands of Mercy has been able to help people build a breeze block home, with a toilet, a stronger roof, and, for extra money, water can be piped into the house. This gives families security, and keeps them safe from rain, typhoons, and the heat of the sun.

Please pray that HOM can help more families have their own home, and stop living under plastic sheeting, pieces of wood etc.,



Feb 15/16 Please pray that God will raise up Filipino leaders to be involved with the ministry of Hands of Mercy. Please pray that God will guide the Filipino community to become more self-reliant and be able to generate income for themselves to benefit their communities. Please continue to pray that the ICHTHUS water filtering business will attract more customers and that Sally and Joey Escoto and the staff involved will be given strength and wisdom as they seek to develop the business. Give thanks that through a generous gift, a new machine has been installed. The water produced from this machine will hopefully attract more customers and help the business to grow.

Feb 17/18 Many children who go to school do so without having breakfast. Give thanks to God for the meals served to underweight children through the thrice weekly **Supplementary Feeding Programme**. Please pray that people will give financially to help purchase the food, and that through the regular feedings the health of the children will improve.



Feb 19/20 Please pray for the Filipino staff members of Hands of Mercy that they will continue to work together in unity. Pray that they will not tire of being good neighbours to the many poor families in Mandaluyong, especially when criticised or facing rejection. Please pray that they may receive God's help and strength to keep persevering in their ministry each day.

Feb 21/22 80% of the world's poor live in just 13 countries and the Philippines is one of the countries (info taken from Care Prayer Diary). Please continue to pray for the seven **Compassion Programmes** of Hands of Mercy. Please give thanks to God for His great faithfulness to the compassion ministry and for the blessing the ministry has been to many families living in poverty.

Feb 23/24 Please pray for the Hands of Mercy staff members leading the small **Bible Study Groups** that meet regularly in the Mandaluyong communities. Please pray that each leader will encourage and help nurture each person who attends. Please pray for the leaders as they visit people in the squatter community where they live. Give thanks for those who have become Christians and are now attending one of the Mercy Community Churches.

Feb 25/26 Please remember in prayer the five Pastors of the Mercy Community churches in Mandaluyong and Baguio/La Trinidad and for those who share God's Word at the Services. Give thanks for the Worship Teams at the churches. Please pray for God's enabling as they lead people closer to Him through praise and worship songs.

Feb 27/28 Give thanks to God for the many Hands of Mercy supporters who give faithfully to the compassion ministry. During January and February gifts for the seven programmes, as well as rent and administration costs etc., are always very low. Please pray that the Lord will touch the hearts of other individuals and move them to pray regularly for the ministry and give financial support.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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