

News update and subjects for prayer – NOVEMBER 2018

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

Nov 1/2 Hands of Mercy's compassion ministry is primarily focused on the needs of the poor living in Mandaluyong City. Mandaluyong is one of fourteen cities within Metro Manila and has a population of approximately 328,699. The city is divided into 27 districts (called a "barangay") and is home to many urban poor communities. Hands of Mercy Philippines currently has teams working in eleven urban poor communities in Mandaluyong City. These communities are called: **Florante, San Miguel, Sto. Rosario, Malaya, Hinahon, Busilak, Silangan, Kayumanggi, Block 37, Block 38, and Block 40 in Welfareville.** Please pray for the Filipino staff as they work each week amongst the people living in these communities.

During the coming days PLEASE GIVE THANKS TO GOD: (and pray accordingly)

Nov 3/4 * That over fifty families receive regular food assistance each month through the **Family Support Programme**.
* For the faithful support of sponsors helping families living in poverty.
* For the continued prayers, privately and collectively, from many Hands of Mercy supporters.

Nov 5/6 * That many children are attending school because of the **Child Sponsorship Programme**.
* That many sponsored young people are receiving a College education.
* That a number of sponsored young people are now in work having completed their College course.

Nov 7/8 * For the growth of the five **Mercy Community Churches**.
* For the growth of the young people's work in the Churches.
* For the "small groups" that meet regularly to study the Bible.

Nov 9/10 * For the commitment of the Hands of Mercy staff in helping their needy neighbours.
* For the many people who financially support the Hands of Mercy compassion ministry.
* For the faithful work of the UK and Filipino Trustees.
* For the diligent work of those involved with the HOMI administration in the UK and Mandaluyong offices.

Nov 11/12 * That many individuals received financial assistance to purchase prescription medicines.
* That cleft lip and palate operations have helped many children.
* For the prayers offered for the HOM staff who are suffering with health issues.

Nov 13/14 * That many families have received repairs to their dilapidated shanty homes.
* That financial gifts have been given towards helping families living in the Florante Street community.
* For financial help given when there have been floods or fires in the squatter communities.

Nov 15/16 * That many disabled children receive regular centre based and home-care therapy.
* That thousands of meals have been served to underweight and malnourished children through the Supplementary Feeding Programme.
* For the development of the Ichthus water filtering business.

Nov 17/18 Please continue to pray for two of the Hands of Mercy staff members who are suffering with cancer – Tess M. and Myrna. Both of them are still having treatment. Another staff member, Ara, has been diagnosed with macular degeneration and another staff member, Jane, has a heart defect and is taking medication. Many of the staff have health problems. Please pray that God will touch their lives with His healing and that they may know His peace day by day. With no National Health Service in the Philippines, families living in poverty will never have enough money to pay for hospital treatment unless someone helps them. So often they just suffer with their physical ailments.

Nov 19/20 Dengue Fever (an acute tropical fever) is a very common illness in Mandaluyong because of the lack of sanitation in the communities. Many children and adults suffer from this disease as well as from respiratory conditions and come to Sally Escoto at the Hands of Mercy office desperate for help as they cannot afford to buy the medication. Please continue to pray that funds will be given to the **Prescription Medicine Programme** so that those affected can obtain the necessary medication to help and heal them. Give thanks to God for the medical items that were given by supporters and sent to Hands of Mercy in the cargo boxes earlier in the year. These items have been and will be a great help to those who have colds, flu and throat infections.

Nov 21/22 More than 7,000 islands make up the Philippines, but the bulk of its fast-growing population lives on just 11 of them. Much of the country is mountainous and prone to earthquakes and eruptions from around 20 active volcanoes. It is often buffeted by wind and heavy storms. Please pray that during this rainy season God will protect the people from the effects of typhoons, thunderstorms and serious flooding and help them cope in their poverty if the flood waters enter their shanty homes.

Nov 23/24 The Hands of Mercy staff have been told they must leave the **Barangka premises** as the owner of the building wants to sell the property. This is where the office is run and where one of the Mercy Community Churches meet each Sunday. It is used for the children and young people with their various activities and where families come to collect their food given to them through the Family Support Programme. Please continue to pray that HOM can find another suitable building or that the owner will change his mind and let them stay.

Nov 25/26 Please continue to pray for the **Florante Street** community situation. As mentioned in previous prayer calendars, things often move slowly in the Philippines. Please continue to pray that the legal side of the selling of the land and the rebuilding of homes, will soon be sorted out and that the thirty families will have peace about where they will be living. At the moment those involved at the Philippine National Home Mortgage Finance Corp and the City Mortgage Programme are working on the documents before the payment of the land can be made to the owner.

Nov 27/28 Please continue to pray that the **Ichthus water filtering business** will continue to grow and that the staff involved will be given strength and wisdom as they develop the business. The water refilling station is in Mandaluyong City and has two filtration systems producing both alkaline and purified water. Water is placed and sold in refillable containers of varying sizes. ICHTHUS welcomes walk-in customers and offers a home/business delivery service. Please pray for Greg, Arnold, Joey, Sally and Anita.



Nov 29/30 Please remember in prayer the Hands of Mercy staff workers as they plan and prepare for the **Christmas activities** for the sponsored children and young people, as well as the “Christmas meal” for the malnourished children. Please pray that funds will become available to hold these events and that each child will be able to have a Christmas present. Please also pray that the sponsored children and young people will really enjoy their **Christmas parties** and benefit physically from the food prepared. Please also pray that the weather will be dry as some of the parties take place out of doors, and that whilst enjoying the Christmas food and party activities, the children will remember Jesus, whose birthday they will be celebrating.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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