



HANDS OF MERCY

Philippines

News update and subjects for prayer – JULY 2019

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

Week 1: July 1st – 7th

**** Give thanks to God** for the number of people who have financially helped the compassion work by giving money raised at: coffee mornings, tea afternoons, B-B-Q's, in place of birthday/Christmas presents, sponsored running, church choir concerts, offerings in church at weddings and funerals, and many other ways. Please pray that other friends of Hands of Mercy will be able to help with the financial costs of helping the poor and needy in Mandaluyong and Baguio/La Trinidad.

**** 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 typhoons and other storms. The Philippines – a Spanish colony for more than three centuries and named after a 16th century Spanish king – was taken over by the US in the early 20th century after a protracted rebellion against rule from Madrid. Spanish and US influences remain strong, especially in terms of language, religion and government. Self-rule in 1935 was followed by full independence in 1946 under a US-style constitution. The U.S. is a close ally and has provided military aid to help combat Muslim and communist insurgencies. **Please pray that the Government will govern with integrity** and give justice to the many families in the communities that have desperate needs.



***** One of the Compassion Programmes of Hands of Mercy is giving free therapy to children with disabilities through the Disabled Therapy Programme** – physical and occupational therapy, speech and hearing impairment therapy and pre-vocational skills training. Also provided is a literacy programme to enhance their skills in reading and writing. Please remember in prayer our disabled therapy volunteers who provide care and support to the disabled children and their families - Bing, Tess, Analyn, Ara, Remy and Inday. They work four afternoons a week at the Lingap Kalinga Centre. On a Friday morning there is also therapy for disabled children at the Hands of Mercy Block 38 Centre, and later in the morning there is home care therapy for children who are unable to travel to the Centre.



Week 2: July 8th – 14th

**** Please continue to pray for the Florante Street squatter community.** There is still no change in the situation and for the families who live in the Florante community it is an uncertain time. The legal side of the selling of the land is proving to be difficult. The Mayor needs to make sure that there are no other heirs to the land, only the person who has come forward. This person is claiming they are the sole heir but they only have very new paperwork, so the Mayor's office are asking for an "heirs bond". If she cannot satisfy the Mayor's office, she will have to wait two years.

**** The UK trustees give thanks for the small group of Hands of Mercy supporters that gathered to pray at St. Francis Church in June.** The compassion ministry in the Philippines could not continue without the faithful prayers of many people. Some people because of their age or health conditions were unable to attend but were joining in prayer at home. Please continue to pray for this compassion ministry which has and is making a difference in Mandaluyong, Manila.

**** Whilst many in the UK are thinking about holidays, please pray for the Filipino families who never have the opportunity to leave their communities and enjoy the beauty of the countryside. Many families, including the children walk around late at night or early morning in the Mandaluyong area acting as unofficial refuse collectors. They are scavengers and are looking for any items they can sell. Through these refuse items they hope to earn a few pesos to buy food for their families. Please pray that the parents will find suitable work with a better income.**

Week 3: July 15th – 21st

**** Please continue to pray for the **UK Trustees as they meet again on Wednesday 17th July** – Keith, Michele, Bob, Samantha, Rob, Sarah and Fran. As you will have read in the letter sent out by Samantha Graham, the UK Chairman of Hands of Mercy International, Keith Barter and Fran Gunn will be handing over their responsibilities of treasurer and administrator in 2019. Please pray for two people to respond to these home-based, part-time positions so that the compassion ministry amongst the squatter families of Mandaluyong and Baguio can continue. These two positions are so important to the Hands of Mercy ministry.**

**** Please continue to pray for Sally Escoto as she handles the many responsibilities as Director of the Compassion Ministry in the Philippines. Please also pray for Mila Espanola helping with the accounts and for all the staff who help in the Hands of Mercy Philippine office. Several of the HOM staff are suffering with health problems and there is no NHS in the Philippines. Please pray that they will all know God's healing touch on their lives and experience His peace and presence with them each day.**

****The Compassion Ministry of Hands of Mercy has made an amazing difference in the lives of poor Filipino families living in the squatter communities – *they are looked down upon and feel they are nobodies, but through Hands of Mercy they have come to know that somebody does care about them.* You can see the change in people's lives and especially in those who have become Christians and belong to one of the five **Mercy Community Churches** that have started in the squatter communities. Please pray for these families.**

Week 4: July 22nd – 31st

**** Each week members of the **Mercy Community churches** meet in small groups in individual homes. These groups provide opportunities for people to get to know each other and to share specific needs, so they can support each other in prayer, counselling, home visitation and other kinds of care. They discuss the spiritual principles being taught at church, learn more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and discuss evangelism opportunities within their neighbourhoods. Please pray for the men and women in these groups that they may mature in their Christian faith and be a witness to their communities.**

**** Please give thanks and praise to God for His great faithfulness to the **Compassion Ministry of Hands of Mercy**, and with many in the UK enjoying their summer holidays, please pray for the Filipino families who are unable to leave their homes. Please pray that they may be able to get away from the squatter communities and enjoy a visit to a swimming pool or an area where trees, bushes and flowers are growing.**

**** **Hands of Mercy** is a reflection of God's compassion for needy children and their families. Give thanks for all the relationships that Hands of Mercy has with children, young people and families in the squatter communities of Mandaluyong and Baguio. By choosing to partner with us, people can help restore hope to someone in need. Please pray that God will touch the hearts of others and give them the burden to join us in reaching the poor.**

Thank you so much for your prayer ministry

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Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion