

News update and subjects for prayer – SEPTEMBER 2019

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

Week 1: September 1st – 7th

*** A recent fire took place in the Agudo squatter community in Mandaluyong, where four families are known to Hands of Mercy plus other families who attend Mercy Community Church. They are now in an evacuation centre in a nearby government school. Please remember them in your prayers as they recover from the shock and wait to see where the local government will allow them to rebuild their home. Sadly, things move very slowly for those in the squatter communities. (Maricel and her family who lost their home to a fire last March, are still waiting for the government to tell them where they can build their home)

*** Please continue to pray for the **UK Trustees** as they meet regularly throughout the year. With the need of a new administrator and treasurer, please 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. These two positions are vital for the work in Mandaluyong, Manila and Baguio in the north of the country. The next Trustees meeting is on Thursday 5th September.



*** The weather is hot and wet in the Philippines with gusty conditions, and during this rainy season there is usually flooding in Mandaluyong. Please pray that God will protect the people from the effects of the heat as well as typhoons, thunderstorms and serious flooding. Please ask God to help them cope when the typhoons come.

Week 2: September 8th – 14th

*** Please continue to pray for the **Seven Compassion Programmes of Hands of Mercy:**

***Supplementary Feeding Programme** – *Undernourished children are served specially designed meals through regular feedings to combat all levels of malnutrition.*

***Surgical Treatment Programme** – *Children and adults with physical needs are given the necessary help and resources to undergo corrective surgery.*

***Disabled Therapy Programme** – *Children with disabilities are provided with regular personalized centre-based or home care therapy.*

***Prescription Medicine Programme** - *Families are given financial assistance to purchase prescription medicines, which they could not otherwise afford.*

***Home Improvement Programme** – *Families are given the necessary help and resources to repair their dilapidated shanty homes.*

***Sponsorship Programmes - Child Sponsorship and Family Support.** A huge difference can be made in the life of a poor child by sponsoring their education and health needs and/or sponsoring a poor family and supporting them with supplementary food each month. (if you would like to help a child or a family, please contact the UK office on 01582 416151)

Week 3: September 15th – 21st

*** 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.

*** Please remember in prayer staff members: Tess Inciso who recently had a stroke, Ara Torre Franca who is still on medication, Myrna Milan and Tess Magtabog who are recovering from cancer. Please continue to pray for the health of Sally Escoto who recently had a hospital check up following her cancer, and please pray for Maricel Payao and her family whose home was destroyed by fire last March.

*** At this Harvest time, we wrestle with the apparent contradiction of God's abundant provision and the fact that many children die of hunger and malnutrition in the world (UN Food and Agriculture Org) the **Supplementary Feeding Programme** is such a blessing to many hungry children in Mandaluyong. Please pray that more people will come forward to help financially with the money budgeted as so many children rely on the three meals provided each week by Hands of Mercy. Give thanks to God for the many meals served to underweight and malnourished children and pray that through the regular feedings the health of the children will improve.



Week 4: September 22nd – 30th

*** Give thanks to God for the growth of the five **Mercy Community Churches**. For the growth of the children's and young people's work and for the "small groups" of men and women that meet to study the Bible each week in the Mandaluyong communities. Please pray that each group leader will encourage and help nurture each person who attends. Please also 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.

*** Please continue to pray for Sally Escoto with her many responsibilities as she runs the Compassion Ministry of Hands of Mercy. Please also pray for the members of staff all of whom live in the squatter communities. Pray that God will give them wisdom and strength for the many tasks to be dealt with each day. Please give thanks to God for Joey and Sally and all the Hands of Mercy staff for their faithful and diligent ministry among their poor and needy neighbours.

*** **1 John 3 v 18: "Let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth"**. God has given us a responsibility to the poor and needy as part of His redemptive plan for humanity. Please pray that many people will actively respond to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people in the squatter areas of Mandaluyong and Baguio/La Trinidad.

Thank you so much for your prayer ministry

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Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion