

News update and subjects for prayer – FEBRUARY 2020

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

Week 1: February 1st – 9th

*** Give thanks to God that the **Christmas parties** went really well for the sponsored children. The children enjoyed games and surprises and after a good meal they each received a gift. The Hands of Mercy staff with their husbands and children also enjoyed their Christmas party. The children who benefit from the **Supplementary Feeding programme** enjoyed a special party with the activities organised by the Hands of Mercy staff in their respective communities. Please give thanks to God for all those who helped towards the cost of the parties and also for the sponsors who remembered their child with a Christmas gift and card. The children are always delighted and grateful when a sponsor remembers them on their Birthdays and at Christmas. Please pray for the many children who are given meals three times a week, as well as the children sponsored for their education. The photo below shows the younger children of Florante Street Community enjoying their Christmas party.



*** In early February Sam Graham will be flying for the first time to the Philippines. Please remember her in your prayers as she travels, visits the different aspects of the Compassion Ministry and meets with the Hands of Mercy Staff who are always delighted when visitors come to see them. Please pray for Sam that this visit will be a special experience for her and help her understand more about the work taking place in Mandaluyong, Manila. This will be a great help to her in her role as the Chair of the charity.

*** Most people will have seen pictures of the **Taal volcano** erupting in the Philippines coating thick ash on many homes nearby. Thousands of residents have been evacuated. Although several miles from Manila and the ministry of Hands of Mercy the families in the squatter communities have received some of the ash, as they experienced when the Pinatubo volcano erupted in the 1990s. Some of the staff have families who have been greatly affected by the eruption. Please pray for Sally and some of the staff who will visit the area to take medicines, clothing, etc., Please remember in prayer the Government and local authorities that they will use their positions of power to help those in greatest need which so often are the poor.

Week 2: February 10th – 16th

*** 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, they 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 for 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.

*** Valentine's Day is celebrated widely in the Philippines with many cards, flowers 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.

Week 3: February 17th – 23rd

*** 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. Hands of Mercy needs more sponsors to help these children and their parents receive supplementary food each month. Sadly a sponsor stopped helping their family recently but please give thanks to God that someone has taken over the sponsorship. 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.**

*** Although often smiling, many Filipinos are hurting, feeling the stress due to lack of money, no regular work, ill health and bad living conditions etc., Please remember them in your prayers. Please pray for those on the Hands of Mercy staff who are widows – Pina, Alberta, Nenita and Terie, and for those who are single mums – Ara, Mila and Myrna.

*** The compassion programmes of Hands of Mercy enable children and families to experience God's love practically, through empowering them to make their way out of poverty and find hope for the future. Please pray for the **Prescription Medicine Programme** which gives families financial assistance to purchase medication which they could not otherwise afford.

Week 4: February 24th – 29th

*** 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.



Here are some of the men meeting in their group

*** Please remember in prayer the five Pastors of the **Mercy Community church** 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.

*** Please remember in prayer Sally Escoto as she deals with the many desperate people coming to the Hands of Mercy office for help with medication, food, housing, repairs etc., Please pray that she will have God's wisdom, strength and guidance each day. Give thanks for the faithful help Keith Barter and John Kingham give with the Hands of Mercy International finances. The Hands of Mercy documents sent to the UK Charity Commission were once again accepted.

Thank you so much for your prayer ministry.

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Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion