



HANDS OF MERCY Philippines

News update and subjects for prayer – APRIL 2020

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



Week 1: April 1st – 8th

*** Recently Samantha Graham, the ChairPerson of Hands of Mercy International made her first visit to the squatter communities of Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines. She was very grateful for the prayer support of many people

"Thank you so much for your prayers for me whilst I was visiting the Philippines. It really was an incredible trip. I have never seen such poverty - thousands of people crammed together, living in dwellings that were ramshackle. Some of the homes were awful – tiny, claustrophobic, no natural daylight, barely enough space for one person let alone all the people living there. The streets were often cramped, with stray dogs, stray cats, cockerels (and rats) abiding, open drains and electricity cables (many of them illegal) running

through. The living conditions are **really tough** out there. I really thank God that I also saw incredible love out there – love from the team who themselves are so reliant on programmes like the Family Support Programme so that they can feed their own families. Love within families for one another – without which there would be great cause for despair. Love from God expressed through the practical help and support that **Hands of Mercy** provides." The above photo shows Sam with one of the Hands of Mercy staff, as they weigh out the rice for the needy FSP families. Please pray for additional sponsors so that more help can be given to very poor families in the Mandaluyong communities.

*** Hands of Mercy UK recently had a wonderful answer to the prayers of many people as Mrs Linda Clitheroe who is known by the UK Trustees has offered to be the new part-time administrator for the compassion ministry. Because of the coronavirus Linda's commencement as administrator will not be immediate as Fran and her husband are having to self isolate at the present time. In the coming months, more information will be shared with all the Hands of Mercy supporters, but in the meantime please pray that the coronavirus will stop spreading and for all the practical details to be sorted out as Fran hands over the reins.

Week 2: April 9th – 15th

*** **EASTER SUNDAY (12th April)** – Jesus said to Martha, **"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die"**. John 11:25,26 (NIV).

Please pray for the Pastors of the five **Mercy Community Churches** as they share God's Word on this Glorious Easter Day. Please pray for the church in the Plainview community, for the church in Block 38 community, for the church in Block 37 community and for the church in the St. Rosario community. 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 also remember in prayer the Youth Leaders of the church, and for Sevalyn as she leads the Mercy Community Church in Camp 8 in Baguio City, in the north of the Philippines.

*** During this month the current academic year for the children and young people under the **Child Sponsorship Programme** will finish and renewal letters will be posted to all those who sponsor children for an education. Please give thanks to God for all the sponsors who have faithfully supported their child/children with their education, health care and personal development. Many children cannot attend school because of poverty. Although schools in the public education system are affordable, the school uniform, transportation costs, money for food, school supplies etc., make it too expensive for those living in poverty. **Please pray that more people will come forward to help a child.** (Please contact the UK office if you would like to sponsor a child – Tel: 01582 416151)

*** During this "hot" season (March-May) please pray for the prevention of fires that can sweep so quickly across the urban poor communities, and that each family will continually be alert and aware of the possibility of a fire. 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 twenty active volcanoes. It is often buffeted by typhoons and other storms during the hot and rainy season. Please pray that God will protect the people from these disastrous storms.

Week 3: April 16th – 22nd

*** Hands of Mercy rents a property for the use of the Office, the Church services, Youth activities, Supplementary feeding for the children etc. That means when the owner wants to sell the property, HOM has to find other accommodation and there are not many buildings in the Mandaluyong area that are available or suitable. Recently the present owners of the buildings the "HOM office" and the "Ichthus Water Filtering Business" uses, want to sell their properties and Hands of Mercy's income doesn't allow it to purchase the buildings. This is a huge challenge for the HOM staff and they and the UK Trustees would value your prayers that God will guide all those concerned and provide suitable accommodation for the needs of the compassion ministry. Ideally HOM Philippines would like to buy a property as Hands of Mercy is making a huge difference in the Mandaluyong squatter communities, and is the only charity reaching out to the families in that area. Prayer is greatly needed and valued.

*** Give thanks to God for the **Philippine Trustees** and their faithfulness to the Hands of Mercy compassion ministry in Mandaluyong. Please pray for Sally, Joey, Malou, Mila Beth, Bing, Myrna, Remy and Anita. Please pray that God will guide them as they make decisions about the compassion ministry. With the coronavirus in the Philippines, please pray for the protection of the HOM staff, children, members of the church and all the families living in Mandaluyong and Baguio/La Trinidad.



Week 4: April 23rd – 31st

*** Give thanks to God for the many meals served to underweight and malnourished children through Hands of Mercy and please pray that through the regular feedings the health of the children will improve. Please also pray that people will give financially through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme** to help buy the food for the children.

*** Please pray for Sally Escoto and Mila Espanola as they deal with the **Hands of Mercy ministry accounts** in the Philippines and for Keith Barter as he manages the Hands of Mercy accounts in the UK. Give thanks for John Kingham for his help with the Independent Examiner's Report and Accounts. Please also remember in prayer the Filipino auditor who examines the Hands of Mercy accounts in the Philippines. Please continue to pray that Hands of Mercy will receive sufficient income to help relieve the material and mental suffering of many of the poorest people in Mandaluyong and in the north of the country in Baguio/La Trinidad. We totally rely on the generosity of individuals to fund our Compassion Programmes.

*** **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 in Mandaluyong and Baguio.

Thank you so much for your prayer ministry

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Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion