



HANDS OF MERCY

Philippines

News update and subjects for prayer – July 2020

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

Week 1: July 1st – 9th

*** Please continue to pray that God will protect all the squatter families of Mandaluyong, Manila from this dreadful virus. The **Coronavirus** has affected people all over the world and in the Philippines many people are suffering, through lack of food. There has also been another fire in Block 38, Welfareville where 1,600 families were displaced, some of the families attend the Mercy Community Church, but thankfully nobody was injured or killed. Sally Escoto the Director of Hands of Mercy has reported that “*life is becoming more challenging*”. Hands of Mercy is helping to feed a number of families in Mandaluyong, and the UK Trustees are very grateful to the many HOMI supporters who have sent financial help so that the HOM staff can buy food to share with the people. The Choir members at St. Thomas’ Church, Luton gave a “concert on-line” a few weeks ago and raised a considerable amount of money to help with buying the food. Please pray for the staff as they continue to help their needy neighbours by taking food parcels to families in the communities.

*** Please pray that the Philippine government will govern with integrity and give justice to the many families in the communities that have desperate needs. Please pray for the Mandaluyong Mayor and for those with authority in local government that they will use their position of power to help those living in poverty, especially now with the Coronavirus.



Week 2: July 10th -17th

*** Give thanks to God for the many meals Hands of Mercy has served to underweight and malnourished children during the past years through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme**. Because of the Coronavirus the community feedings had to stop but thankfully the HOM staff have bought food and keeping a distance, families have been collecting their “bags of rice” to cook at home. When the virus has gone, the thrice weekly feedings for the malnourished children will continue to take place in the communities.

*** When we use the toilet or turn on a tap today, thank God that our water and sanitation is clean, safe and a few short steps away. In the squatter communities of Mandaluyong sanitation facilities are inadequate, which creates a real health risk for the people. Please pray that the local authorities will empower the people to develop and improve their own water and sanitation system.

Week 3: July 18th – 25th

*** Hands of Mercy currently works in Mandaluyong City and in the City of Baguio/La Trinidad. Mandaluyong is one of fourteen cities within Metro Manila and has a population of approximately 328,000. It is home to many urban poor communities and informal settlements. Hands of Mercy currently has teams working in nine urban poor communities. Florante, Sto.Rosario/San Miguel, Agudo, Busilak, Kayumanggi, Silangan, Block 37 Welfareville, Block 38 Welfareville and Block 40 Welfareville. Please pray for the Hands of Mercy staff who work in these communities especially with the restrictions of the Coronavirus.

*** Please pray that God will raise up Filipino leaders to be involved with the ministry of Hands of Mercy. Pray that God will guide the Filipino community to become more self-reliant and able to generate income for themselves to benefit their communities. Please continue to pray that the ICHTHUS water filtering business will attract more customers and that Sally and Joey Escoto and the staff involved will be given strength and wisdom as they seek to develop the business.

Week 4: July 26th – 31st

*** Because of the Coronavirus children in the Philippines are not able to attend school. We recently received information from Sally Escoto, the Director of Hands of Mercy who shared with us the news which affects all those who sponsor a child/children through the **Child Sponsorship Programme**. Sally wrote..... *“parents have decided not to enrol their children this school year due to Covid 19. They are afraid that their children will get the virus from school since Covid 19 is positive here and still increasing. It is also very difficult for us to take photos for the profile card because children aging from 0 to 21 years old and senior citizens are not allowed to go out of the house.”* Other years the children would have been returning to school and college in June. Please remember in prayer all the **sponsored children** and give thanks to God for all the people who have faithfully supported their child/children with their education, health care and personal development. (if you would like to sponsor a child, please contact the HOMI office on info@handsofmercyph.org)



Hands of Mercy Philippines staff

*** Give thanks to God that the Hands of Mercy staff have been able to give the **Child Sponsorship** beneficiaries relief goods that will help them with day to day food. Everyone in the Philippines loves rice! and the **Family Support** families were very happy recently when 15 kilos of extra rice was given to them from Hands of Mercy Philippines.

*** Hands of Mercy UK had a wonderful answer to prayer during March when Mrs. Linda Clitheroe offered to be the new part-time administrator for the compassion ministry. Linda will be commencing her role in July as Fran Gunn hands over her responsibilities. Please pray for Linda that God will give her wisdom and guidance as she takes on this position. God has greatly blessed the Hands of Mercy ministry during the past 23 years and many families have been helped physically, mentally and spiritually. The people have shared that they feel they are “nobodies” – no one cares – they are looked down upon! But through the ministry of Hands of Mercy the people in the squatter communities now have HOPE when there was despair.

*** Thank you to all the Hands of Mercy supporters for the help they have given recently and in the past years. Be assured that the Filipino families in Mandaluyong are so grateful to you. Please continue to remember them in your prayers. The following quote from John Wesley is very meaningful as well as challenging.

“I felt my heart strangely warmed. I did trust Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death. Do all the good you can, by all means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can”. A quote from John Wesley 1703-91.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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