



HANDS OF MERCY

Philippines

News update and subjects for prayer – November 2020

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

Week 1: November 1st – 7th

*** Hands of Mercy compassion ministry is best summed up by the story of the little boy who came across a beach covered in thousands of dying starfish. He started to pick them up, throwing them back in the sea. **“What are you doing?” his mother asked – “how can you hope to make any difference here?” The boy looked at his mother and said, “well I made a difference to that one... and that one... and that one.....”** The ministry of Hands of Mercy has made a huge difference to many families in Mandaluyong – in Body, Mind and Soul. Please give thanks for the “difference” in the lives of so many people, that the HOM staff and many supporters of the charity have made during the past years. Please pray that Hands of Mercy will be able to continue making that “difference”.

*** Sally Escoto has reported, “that the lockdown is ongoing and will continue for the foreseeable future. The Coronavirus continues to increase and cases are still rising”. The Philippine economy is opening up a little, but people in the squatter communities can only work for a limited time. The lack of money means no food for hungry people, no medical items, and being unable to pay the rent of a squatter home. Please pray that supporters of Hands of Mercy will give financially so that the staff are able to help those in desperate need.



Week 2: November 8th – 14th

*** Hands of Mercy's compassion ministry is primarily focused on the need of the poor living in Mandaluyong City. The City is one of fourteen cities within Metro Manila and has a population of approximately 400,000. The city is divided into 27 districts (called a “barangay”) and is home to many urban poor communities.

Please pray for the Hands of Mercy staff members who work in the 9 squatter communities in Mandaluyong:

Sto. Rosario/San Miguel: Analyn, Paradin and Brenda **Block 38:** Remy and Myrna **Block 40:** Liza and Helen **Block 37:** Beth, Tess, Maricel and Jovy **Busilak:** Mila, Pina and Ara **Florante:** Bing and Terie **Kayumanggi:** Jenny and Inday **Silangan:** Jane, Nenita and Medilyn **Agudo:** Maria, Berta and Wilma.

*** Please pray for the children who are in a difficult family situation – for peace when tensions between parents run high, and for comfort when they feel broken-hearted. Some fathers drink or use drugs and neglect their children. Some mothers are working abroad and without the stability of a caring home the children are greatly affected. Please pray that parents will think deeply about the effect their behaviour is having on their family and be willing to change their ways.

Week 3: November 15th – 21st

*** The Coronavirus pandemic is causing huge problems for the children living in the squatter communities of Mandaluyong. Sally Escoto reported that because there is no “face to face” teaching, the schools are requiring the children to use laptops with the mother’s helping to teach their children. This is an enormous problem for children whose parents cannot afford laptops and have parents with little or no education. Most lessons are in English and many parents are unable to speak or write English. College students are having online classes. Education for all children is difficult, but it is especially difficult for the elementary and high school children living in the squatter communities. Please continue to pray for a good outcome from this situation.



*** Rice is the staple diet of the Filipino and many people struggle to buy enough for their families. Hands of Mercy aims to give a “rice gift” to the staff in the Philippines twice a year, which costs approx. £1,300. Please pray that money will be given to the compassion ministry so that we can continue helping the Hands of Mercy staff members who work tirelessly in the squatter communities.

*** Please continue to pray for Linda Clitheroe, the new administrator for Hands of Mercy in the UK, that God will give her wisdom and guidance as she deals with the daily administration. After many years of faithful ministry as treasurer for the charity, Keith Barter is wanting to hand over his responsibility. Please pray for someone to respond to this position which is a very important part of the compassion ministry.

Week 4: November 22nd – 30th

*** Please pray for the members of the four Mercy Community Churches who are unable to meet together for worship because of the Coronavirus. Online church isn’t an option for the families in the squatter communities. Sally Escoto has encouraged families to “do church” within their families. Only 15 people are allowed to meet in church, so the HOM staff meet for worship in two groups. Please pray for the men, women and young people of Mercy Community Church that during this time when they are unable to meet they will not lose their faith and love for their Heavenly Father.

*** The Christmas celebrations in Mandaluyong will be very different this year for the children and adults in the squatter communities. The Christmas parties for the **Supplementary Feeding beneficiaries** which were enjoyed by so many, will now not be able to take place. Instead the staff will cook the food and with a Christmas gift, they will take it to the families of the children. The children and students of the **Child Sponsorship Programme** will be given 10 kilos of rice as well as a Christmas gift. The rice will also be a help for their families. Please pray for the Hands of Mercy staff as they make decisions about Christmas and how they can make it “special” for everyone.

*** **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 ministry in prayer

Email: info@handsofmercyph.org Internet: www.handsofmercyph.org
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