

News update and subjects for prayer – January 2021

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

The most difficult prayer, and the prayer which, therefore, costs us the most striving, is persevering prayer, the prayer which faints not, but continues steadfastly until the answer comes. (O. Hallesby)

Week 1: JANUARY 1st – 9th

*** As we look back over the past year and look forward to the new year, please give thanks and praise for every expression of God's love and blessing and for His great faithfulness to the compassion work of Hands of Mercy. We are increasingly aware that God is at work, touching people's lives in a powerful way. Please pray that we can **make a difference to many during 2021** and that others will join us in helping the poor and needy. **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven."

*** Please pray for Sally and Joey Escoto and the Hands of Mercy staff that during this holiday time they may have rest and refreshment and to know God's strength and guidance as they serve their needy neighbours during the coming year.

*** Please continue to pray for the **Philippine and UK Trustees** as they meet regularly throughout the year. 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. The next UK Trustees meeting is on the 13th of January.



HOM staff preparing food parcels for hungry families

Week 2: JANUARY 10th -17th

*** The hungry families in Mandaluyong, Manila, are so grateful for the help they have received during the Coronavirus lockdown last year. The generosity in 2020 has literally been a lifesaver to hundreds of children and over 1,000 families who would otherwise have faced severe hunger or starvation. Work is still scarce due to the ongoing lockdown. Some Filipinos have lost their jobs. Others are just about surviving on the food handouts but do not have money to pay their bills. **Hands of Mercy** would love to be able to keep sending additional funds so that families can eat and keep electricity and water running. Can you help with this? Please pray that more finance will be given so that as the Coronavirus continues Hands of Mercy can give food to needy families.

*** The Christmas celebrations in Mandaluyong were 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, were not able to take place. Instead, the staff cooked the food and with a Christmas gift, they visited the families of the children. The children and students of the **Child Sponsorship Programme** were given 10 kilos of rice as well as a Christmas gift. Please pray for the children and families during these difficult days.

Week 3: JANUARY 18th – 24th

*** During November a **severe typhoon** hit part of the Philippines which affected some of the wider families of the Hands of Mercy staff. This is what one of the staff wrote: “... recently we are devastated because of the typhoons that hit our province. Many people and animals died because of flood due to [the] typhoon. The super typhoon Rolly strikes our province which is the main landfall of the typhoon. The typhoon destroyed the houses and land crops of my siblings, but the Lord is Almighty and I thank Him for making my family safe during the typhoon. Thank you for the money you gave to me, it can help my family especially my siblings in our countryside to start again....” Please pray for the many families who were affected by the typhoon and please pray that the local and national government will help these poor families to build a home again.

*** **HANDS OF MERCY SUNDAY** will be taking place in **June 2021** – this will be a way for you and others to find out more about how your support is changing lives in the Philippines. Hopefully we will be back to meeting in church by then! However, whether we are meeting in person or virtually, there will be ways to get involved. Please pray that this will be successful and please pray for the preparations that will need to take place in the coming months.



A few squatter homes in Mandaluyong

Week 4: JANUARY 25th – 31st

*** 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.

*** We will be moving towards a bi-monthly printed **Prayer Calendar and Update** from February to help save money on postage. (the email calendar will still be sent monthly) This is so that we can send out the saved money to the Philippines to help families eat and pay their bills whilst this lockdown continues. Please pray for this and for other fundraising initiatives that will help to support the needy living in the Mandaluyong squatter communities. Most of all, please pray as we continue to trust God to provide for the needs of the poor.

*** Give thanks to God for the faithful support of churches in the UK as well as the many individuals who support the Hands of Mercy compassion ministry. The prayers, sponsorships, gifts to the compassion programmes do make a difference to many lives. Hands of Mercy is changing the lives of children and adults and giving them HOPE for the future.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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

Registered Charity No. 1097434

Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion

*****If you wish to give a gift to Hands of Mercy International, you can give through: www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/HOMfeedfamilies or by cheque to the HOMI office at St. Thomas' Church, 585A Hitchin Road, Luton, LU2 7UL