

News update and subjects for prayer – June 2021

.....MUCH PRAYER, MUCH BLESSING. LITTLE PRAYER, LITTLE BLESSING, NO PRAYER, NO BLESSING! 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Week 1: June 1st – 8th

*** **HANDS OF MERCY SUNDAY – Part 1** - will be taking place on **June 27th 2021** – Please pray that churches connected to Hands of Mercy will be able to share a video of thanks from the Philippines. This will be followed up with a longer updated **HOM Sunday Part 2 on Sunday 26th September**. The HOMI Trustees decided to have two parts to give more time for things to settle down as lockdown continues to ease. Please pray that many people seeing the videos will be moved to support children and families living in poverty in the Philippines, as they continue to cope with the Coronavirus lockdown.

*** The Philippines has the second highest number of Covid-19 cases in South East Asia which has thrown the country in disarray. This second surge of cases is putting enormous pressure on the hospitals and healthcare system. With one of the longest and hardest lockdowns, a crippling recession has forced thousands onto the streets in search of food. Please pray for God's mercy and grace for the Philippines as they struggle with rising numbers of Covid-19 cases and very limited vaccines.

*** The families in the squatter communities have no "food security" at the moment. Many do not know where their next meal will be coming from. Many people are still out of work and with some businesses closed, employees are not being paid. The income of taxi, jeepney and bus drivers is also affected because there are few passengers. Even scavengers and street vendors have lost their jobs as they are not allowed to be on the streets because of government health rules. Please pray for God's miraculous provision for so many and give thanks that **Hands of Mercy** continues to give food to as many families as they can.



HOM staff preparing food to take to hungry families.

Week 2: June 9th -15th

*** 26 families live in the **Florante Street squatter community**. For three years the families have faced being evicted from their homes. Please pray against the corruption that has been taking place, and please pray for the local Mayor as she seeks to negotiate an agreement with the owner of the land, which will allow the families to remain in their homes. Each family will then have to pay a mortgage. For families living in poverty this is not an easy thing to do. Please remember them in your prayers.

*** This past year schooling for the children of the Philippines has been very different and will continue to be so unless vaccinations are given to the people. The government is slow in dealing with vaccinations, which will mean that online classes will continue. The 2020-2021 academic school year is finishing in June and will start again in August. The **Child Sponsorship** fee for the coming year, will be used for food, on-line computer work, clothing, health needs etc. Please pray for the children who are sponsored, their parents and siblings, for protection from the Coronavirus, and for provision for their day-to-day material needs.

*** Please pray for the four students graduating from college this summer that they will find suitable paid employment after their many years of study – *John Robert, Divina, Ella and Ricamay*.

Week 3: June 16th – 23rd

*** The Hands of Mercy staff continue to cook food and distribute it regularly to the children. Sally Escoto reported that this is very challenging for the staff because of the Coronavirus, but the children are hungry and look out for the meals being brought to them. Please give thanks to God for the gifts that have been given from unexpected quarters which has helped Hands of Mercy to provide meals for children and families struggling to survive. Please pray also for their protection from catching the Coronavirus.



Lunch time in Mandaluyong!

*** The weather now in the Philippines is very hot and many people are suffering with colds and flu. Ara, one of the staff is poorly and coughing a lot – Myrna and Tess who had cancer, are continuing with laboratory tests and medication. Please remember these ladies in prayer – they work so hard for Hands of Mercy.

*** **June 20th is FATHERS DAY** – Please pray for the fathers of all the sponsored children and for the fathers in the families that receive supplementary food through the Family Support Programme. Give thanks for the men's group at the Mercy Community Church. Please pray that God will enable them as they seek to reach out and help their neighbours. Please pray that the men in the communities who drink, gamble and harshly treat their wives, will meet with the living God and experience a transformation in their lives.

Week 4: June 24th – 30th

*** Please pray that the Philippine government will act with integrity and keep the promises made to the people over food and vaccines. The slow distribution of the vaccine is causing great concern, especially for those living in the squatter communities. The population of the Philippines is over 106 million (the UK is just over 66 million) so they have a vast task ahead of them, with far fewer resources than the ones we have in the UK.

*** Please continue to pray for Sally Escoto as she handles the many responsibilities as Director of the Compassion Ministry. Please also pray for Mila Espanola and for all the staff who help in the Hands of Mercy Philippine office.

*** Through your love, prayers, and financial support you can bring a positive and lasting change in the life of someone living in poverty. **Hands of Mercy** totally relies on the generosity of individuals to fund our Compassion Programmes and especially at the moment with the problems of the Pandemic. 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, Manila and in the north of the country in Baguio/La Trinidad.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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*****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