



News update and subjects for prayer – December 2021

If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him. (C.T Studd)

Week 1: December 1st – 8th

*** Sally Escoto the Director of Hands of Mercy has reported that life in Manila is slightly easier and vaccines are coming into the country. Businesses want people to have the vaccination, but at the moment the government has not made this compulsory. Children are now allowed to go to outdoor areas with their parents, but over 65s are not allowed to go out even if they have been vaccinated! Many people are struggling to find work, with the result there are still some desperate families needing food and the basic items of daily living. Please continue to pray and give so that Hands of Mercy can go on helping the families in Mandaluyong.

*** **Mercy Community Church** celebrated their **Anniversary** on the third Sunday in November. This year was their 21st Anniversary but because of Covid 19 large gatherings were not allowed. Instead of the usual cooked meal, this year each family was given a gift of rice, which during these days of hunger was gratefully received by everyone. Please give thanks to God for the growth of the churches and pray that the members will grow in their relationship with Jesus, God the Son.



A child in 2020 receiving a Christmas meal and a Christmas gift

*** Please pray for the Hands of Mercy staff as they plan and prepare the **Christmas activities** for the sponsored children and young people. The Christmas celebrations for the children and adults will be different again this year, as Covid 19 prevents large gatherings, but the staff plan to make Christmas “special” for the children. There will be three parties for the CSP children – elementary children on the 20th, high school children on the 21st and college students on the 22nd. Please pray that funds will become available so that each child will be able to have a Christmas present.

Week 2: December 9th – 16th

*** The malnourished children who receive meals through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme**, will be visited by the staff who will take a gift of food and a Christmas parcel for each of the boys and girls. Please pray that the children will really enjoy their Christmas gift and benefit physically from the food given to them, and that whilst enjoying the Christmas food the children will remember Jesus, whose birthday they will be celebrating.

*** Please pray for the pupils in the Philippines and other under-developed countries whose education is being disrupted so much during the pandemic. In Mandaluyong the schools and colleges are still giving online teaching and some of the children struggle with the format as well as the challenges of getting enough WiFi. It is hoped that face to face teaching will begin again later in 2022. Please remember in prayer all the children and young people sponsored by Hands of Mercy supporters.

*** Please remember in prayer the UK HOMI staff as they deal with the administration of the ministry. Please note that **Hands of Mercy has a new office Mobile number: 07467 127023.**

Week 3: December 17th – 24th



*** Please pray for the health of the Hands of Mercy staff. The Coronavirus lockdown has taken its toll on people's energy levels with the staff helping many needy families during the last 19 months. They all live in the squatter communities and experience lack of finance for the essentials of living. Last year Sally was able to book a small swimming pool for the staff to enjoy and just recently they all enjoyed another visit. A small pleasure for these hardworking ladies. Please pray for: Anita, Ara, Analyn, Berta, Beth, Bing, Brenda, Helen, Inday, Jane, Jenny, Liza, Maria, Mila, Myrna, Maricel, Medilyn, Nenita, Paradin, Pina, Remy, Sally, Sevalyn, Tess M, Terie, and Wilma .

*** The Hands of Mercy trustees will be holding another Prayer Meeting for the compassion ministry in the Philippines. This will be held on **Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7.30pm**. This will be streamlined live on FaceBook but people are invited to come to St. Thomas' Church Hall in Stopsley, Luton.

*** Please pray for the trustees who will be speaking at St. Andrews Church, Slip End on **Sunday 16th January 2022** to share about the ministry of Hands of Mercy. Many families in Mandaluyong and Baguio are grateful to the members of St. Andrews for the financial support they have received over several years.

Week 4: December 25th – 31st

*** **Christmas Day – a prayer:** Wonderful Saviour, you loved us so much that instead of leaving the world in a place of brokenness, you came down into human history as a baby. Thank you for exchanging your throne for a manger so that we could be saved by your precious blood. Help us to share your "Good News" with others. Amen.

*** 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 someone during 2022** 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.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer.

Email: info@handsofmercyph.org Website: www.handsofmercyph.org HOMI office mobile: 07467127023 Registered Charity No. 1097434

Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion