

News update and subjects for prayer – November 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: November 1st – 8th

*** **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 Spirit. 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 the Delta variant continues to increase with cases still rising”. Because they are full, hospitals have been closed with some people being treated with oxygen outside or in their cars. All non-essential businesses are closed. Without work people cannot earn and 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.



*** In the above photograph we see the beneficiaries of the **Family Support Programme**. The Programme is an enormous help to the very poor and needy families in Mandaluyong, many of whom need to scavenge each day to afford a meal. Hands of Mercy needs more sponsors to help these people receive supplementary food each month. We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can change the life of a family. Please pray that God will nudge concerned individuals to offer to sponsor a family with food items. £20 a month would make a great difference in a family's life. (Please contact the UK office on info@handsofmercyph.org if you would like to sponsor a family)

Week 2: November 9th – 16th

*** 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 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. There is a lot of hopelessness, frustration and hardship in the communities and the lockdown is taking its toll on everyone. Please remember the HOM staff and the community families in your prayers.

*** Please pray for the pupils in the Philippines and other under-developed countries whose education is being disrupted so much during the pandemic. Please remember in prayer all the children and young people sponsored by Hands of Mercy supporters.

*** 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 positions of power to help those living in poverty, especially now during the present lockdown. People are desperate and there has been an increase of theft in the communities. This is producing fear and uncertainty. Please pray for the protection of the HOM staff and for all the families living in the squatter communities.

Week 3: November 17th – 24th



*** For the children and adults in the squatter communities, the Christmas celebrations in Mandaluyong will be very different again this year. The Christmas parties in past years for the **supplementary feeding children** and the **sponsored children** were so much enjoyed. Please pray for the Hands of Mercy staff as they make decisions about Christmas 2021 and how they can make it “special” for everyone.

*** By sponsoring a child through Hands of Mercy International you will be helping a child to have skills and opportunities they need to break free from poverty. Sponsoring a child is not just about giving money, it's about building a future for a boy or a girl, their family and the community they live in. It's about taking an interest and making connections. (if you would like to sponsor a child, please contact the Hands of Mercy office on info@handsofmercyph.org)

Week 4: November 25th – 30th

*** Due to strict lockdown, attending Sunday worship at the Mercy Community Churches has been impossible for many weeks. From the middle of September, the local government said that a maximum of 30% of people could attend, and only those who have had the vaccine. Please pray for the members of the four churches, three in Mandaluyong and one in Baguio, that the people will not lose their faith but will grow in their love for their Lord.

*** As well as the compassion programmes and spiritual work, Hands of Mercy has a clear social mission in the form of a social enterprise – *The Ichthus Water Refilling Station*. Ichthus is a water purification business producing a basic human need, clean drinking water. The Philippine government has accepted private water shops as a necessary weapon in the fight against waterborne disease and regulates their quality control practices and final produce as much as possible. The responsibility of running a business like this falls heavily on Joey and Sally Escoto's shoulders. Please pray that the staff involved – Greg, Arnold, Joey, Sally and Anita – will be given strength and wisdom as they develop the business.

*** With C.T Studd's words at the beginning of the calendar, please pray even more sacrificially for our Filipino friends in Mandaluyong and Baguio/La Trinidad.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer.

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Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion