

News update and subjects for prayer – June 2022

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

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath; without it you cannot move. (George Verwer)

Week 1: June 1st – 8th

*** Many people in Mandaluyong need help from the **Prescription Medicine Programme**. Please pray that money will be given so that through this programme families can be given financial assistance to purchase medication which they could not otherwise afford. As there is no National Health Service in the Philippines, it is an enormous help to the poor families to get proper medication, as well as laboratory tests through **Hands of Mercy**.

*** Sally Escoto, the Director of Hands of Mercy, has reported that the Philippines is now on a lighter lockdown as numbers getting Covid seem to be going down. Please pray that that God will protect the **Hands of Mercy** staff and all the squatter families of Mandaluyong from this deadly virus.

*** Hunger is still the great scandal of our age, and many families in Mandaluyong in the Philippines have very little to eat each day. High population growth, social and political unrest and natural disasters have played havoc with the economy in the country for many years, causing widespread poverty and unemployment. This affects the lives of thousands of children, many of whom suffer from malnutrition. The **Hands of Mercy** staff are now feeding the malnourished children again at the **HOM Centres** instead of taking the food to the squatter homes. The feedings take place from Wednesday to Saturday. Please pray that through the regular feedings the health of the children will improve, and that people will give financially through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme** to help buy food for the malnourished children.



Week 2: June 9th – 16th

*** Remy Lubiano a Hands of Mercy staff member has recently enrolled on a three-month course to learn computer skills. Once Remy has completed her training, she will be able to help Sally with the administration in the HOM office. Please pray for Remy as she commences this course, and for her future help with Hands of Mercy Philippines.

*** During this "hot" season Sally reported in May that it was 51 degrees Celsius and very humid! Please pray for the prevention of fires that can sweep so quickly across the urban poor communities, and that each family will continually be alert and aware of the possibility of a fire. More than 7,000 islands make up the Philippines, but the bulk of its fast-growing population lives on just 11 of them. Much of the country is mountainous and prone to earthquakes and eruptions from around twenty active volcanoes. It is often buffeted by typhoons and other storms during the hot and rainy season. Please pray that God will protect the people from these disastrous events.

*** On May 9th National elections were held in the Philippines and Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. son of the former Philippine dictator, has had a landslide victory. He has asked to be judged on his actions, not his ancestors. This victory will send a remarkable return to power for the Marcos family who fled into exile 36 years ago. In the country corruption poses a significant threat to many people, especially the disadvantaged. Please pray that this new President with the Philippine government will govern with integrity and give justice to the many families in the communities that have desperate needs.

Week 3: June 17th – 23rd

*** **Father’s Day** is on the 19th June. Please pray for the fathers of all the sponsored children in the **Child Sponsorship Programme** 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 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.

*** Because of the Pandemic the schooling of the sponsored children through the **Child Sponsorship Programme** has changed considerably during the past year. At the moment the Government is still planning to start the next academic year in September when face to face classes will resume. The cost of a school uniform has increased, so the sponsorship fee is being stretched considerably to cover the uniform, school supplies, food, health needs and on-line computer work each month. As in the UK, it is a difficult time for everyone in the Philippines. 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.

*** By sponsoring a child through **Hands of Mercy International** you will have the opportunity to effectively impact the life of a child and enrich their community. The children receive education, food, healthcare and hear the Gospel through Mercy Community Church. This is a practical, “hands on” way of sharing the love of Christ. Although schools in the public education system are affordable, the school uniform, transportation costs, money for food, school supplies etc., make it too expensive for those living in poverty. Please pray for more people to come forward to help sponsor a child. *(For details, please contact the UK office on Tel: 07467127023 or by email at: info@handsofmercyph.org)*

Week 4: June 24th – 30th

*** When the Coronavirus has gone, please pray for the members of the Mercy Community Church **Men’s Group** as they reach out in practical ways to help their neighbours. Please pray for them as they befriend and help the men, some who now attend church, to grow in their faith and relationship with God and become role models in their communities.

*** Please remember in prayer the world’s poorest children, many of whom live in the Philippines. With little access to life’s basic needs and no real hope for the future, please pray that through the compassion ministry of Hands of Mercy, God will prosper every endeavour to lift them from poverty and enable them to flourish.

*** Please give thanks that Sally and Joey Escoto were able to visit their family in Cebu and enjoy a break from the busyness of the squatter communities of Mandaluyong.

*** **Hands of Mercy** is a reflection of God’s compassion for needy children and their families. Give thanks for all the relationships that Hands of Mercy has with children, young people and families in the squatter communities of Mandaluyong and Baguio. By choosing to partner with us, people can help restore hope to someone in need. Please pray that God will touch the hearts of others and give them the burden to join us in reaching the poor 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