

News update and subjects for prayer – May 2022

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

Prayer is a power-house in God's eyes, it's at the heart of His action in our lives and our world. Quiet and unassuming though prayer appears, God chooses to work through and with us this way transforming us, transforming the world. Colossians 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful". (Taken from "Living Light" – Nationwide Christian Trust)

Week 1: May 1st – 8th

*** 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 planning to start the next academic year in September when face to face classes hopefully will resume. This will only happen if Covid remains low. 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: Tel: 07467 127023 or by email at: info@handsofmercyph.org)

*** 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.



Week 2: May 9th – 16th

*** Poverty means not being able to pay your rent or to have electricity or water brought to your shanty home, or even having a toilet to use. It means waking up every day facing insecurity and worry about money. The stress can lead to many problems and especially now with the Coronavirus affecting many thousands of people living in the squatter communities. Please pray that the Philippine government will govern with integrity and give justice to the families.

*** The **Family Support 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 07467127023 or email info@handsofmercyph.org if you would like to help a family.



Sorting the groceries to give to the families

*** 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.

Week 3: May 17th – 24th

*** For 22 years Hands of Mercy has been delivering, posting and emailing the **Prayer Calendar and Update**. Without the faithful prayers of friends and supporters, the compassion ministry in the Philippines would not continue. Please pray that supporters will continue to remember in prayer all the HOM staff, the families, the four Churches and the daily work of the compassion ministry in Mandaluyong and Baguio. Please also pray for Christine and John who deliver the Calendars in Luton, for Sam who emails the calendars to people, Linda who prints them, and for Fran as she writes and prepares the Prayer Calendar and Update each month.

*** Please pray for the men in the squatter communities, particularly for those who are bound by addictions and who are physically violent towards their wives, especially within some of the **Family Support Programme** families. Please pray that they may meet with Jesus their Saviour and discover how He can give them a different attitude towards others and a new purpose in life.

*** Please continue to pray that the **Ichthus water filtering business** will continue to grow and that they will get more customers. For health reasons it is not advisable to drink tap water in the Philippines. Recently Ichthus lost three companies who used to buy their water but found it was cheaper elsewhere. Please pray that the staff will have wisdom and strength as they make decisions about costs and the future of the business, especially as the income generated is very low.

Week 4: May 25th – 31st

*** 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.

*** **ASCENSION DAY** is on May 26th. Please remember in prayer the Pastors of the **Mercy Community churches** in Mandaluyong and Baguio/La Trinidad. Give thanks for the Worship teams at the churches and please pray for God's enabling as they lead people closer to Him through praise and worship songs.

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

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion