

News update and subjects for prayer – August 2023

Paul said, “I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive’.” Acts 20:35

Week 1: August 1st – 8th

*** Some will have heard that there was a fire in Block 40 squatter community where Hands of Mercy is working. 142 families lost their homes and 450 people were affected, including Helen one of the HOM staff and two children sponsored through the Child Sponsorship Programme. The families are now staying in pop-up evacuation tents, but these offer very little protection against the heat, rain and theft. The local government has also said they are not sure that they can continue to keep feeding everyone three times a day. Please pray for a miracle in terms of food provision and new housing. Hands of Mercy has been able to help buy some food, but please pray that more money is given so that this support can continue.



Helen (HOM staff member) and some of her family in the evacuation tent

*** David, one of the Hands of Mercy Trustees and Vicar of St. Thomas's Church in Luton, has been granted a sabbatical. As part of this, he will be on a pilgrimage walking the “Path of Peace” from the Swiss border to the North Sea, following along the line of the Western Front in World War One. It is a new path inspired by a soldier of that war who, before his death in the trenches, had the vision of a path along this route dedicated to seeking peace rather than war. David is walking in the name of **Hands of Mercy** and would welcome any gifts towards the Compassion Ministry in the Philippines. Please send gifts to the HOMI office at St. Thomas' Church (585A Hitchin Road, Stopsley, Luton, LU2 7UL) or donate via BACS transfer.

Week 2: August 9th – 16th

*** Please continue to pray for the **Seven Compassion Programmes of Hands of Mercy**:

***Supplementary Feeding Programme** – *Undernourished children are served specially designed meals through regular feedings to combat all levels of malnutrition.*

***Surgical Treatment Programme** – *Children and adults with physical needs are given the necessary help and resources to undergo corrective surgery.*

***Disabled Therapy Programme** – *Children with disabilities are provided with regular, personalised centre-based or home care therapy.*

***Prescription Medicine Programme** – *Families are given financial assistance to purchase prescription medicines, which they could not otherwise afford.*

***Home Improvement Programme** – *Families are given the necessary help and resources to repair their dilapidated shanty homes.*

***Sponsorship Programmes – Child Sponsorship and Family Support.** A huge difference can be made in the life of a poor child by sponsoring their education and health needs and/or sponsoring a poor family and supporting them with supplementary food each month. (If you would like to help a child or a family, please contact the UK office on 07467 127023 or info@handsofmercyph.org)

Week 3: August 17th – 24th

*** Sponsoring a child through **Hands of Mercy** gives them life-changing support. This includes schooling, health checks and an opportunity to join with other children at the local Mercy Community Church. This brings great hope to a child and their family. Sally Escoto, the Director of HOM, has reported that the Philippine government plan to bring the school year back to its original schedule that took place before Covid. The plan is to end the next school year by March/April 2024. Sponsors for children are always needed and if you would like to help sponsor a child, please contact the HOMI office on: email: info@handsofmercyph.org or phone 07467 127023.



Sally, HOM Director, with some of the children helped by Hands of Mercy

*** Please remember in prayer those working in the Philippine Government department whose actions directly affect poor communities. Whether their decisions relate to health, water, sanitation, fire, or other poverty issues, please pray that they will have the courage to make choices that benefit those most in need. Please also pray that the government will govern with integrity and give justice to the many families in the communities, especially the families in the evacuation tents.

Week 4: August 25th – 31st

*** Due to the very hot weather conditions in the Philippines, there are many who are suffering from some form of sickness. Please pray for healing, especially remembering the Hands of Mercy staff, all of whom live in the squatter communities.

*** Please pray for Nonito Ramirez and Esmael Olchondra who have recently been commissioned as Youth Pastor, and Youth Assistant Pastor for the Mercy Community Church in Mandaluyong. They have both graduated from Calvary Bible Institute Luzon, Philippines with a practical theology background. Pray that they will have God's enabling and wisdom as they minister amongst the young people at the Mercy Community Church.

*** 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 and gifts to the compassion programmes do make a difference in many Filipino lives. We may not be able to change the situation for everybody, but Hands of Mercy is changing the lives of children and adults in Mandaluyong, Manila and giving them hope for the future.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer.

Email: info@handsofmercyph.org Internet: www.handsofmercyph.org
Registered Charity No. 1097434 HOMI office mobile: 07467 127023

Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion