



News update and subjects for prayer – November 2023

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.



High school sponsored children showing us their school bags!

*** Please remember in prayer all the **sponsored children and young people** and give thanks to God for all the sponsors who have faithfully supported their child/children with their education, health care and personal development. Many children cannot attend school because of poverty. 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 a child – this can really help to change their life. For details, please contact the UK office on **07467 127023** or email: info@handsofmercyph.org.

Week 2: November 9th – 16th

*** The young people in Mandaluyong are exposed to many risks such as gangs, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, alcohol and drug addiction. Each child is precious to God. Please pray that God will protect all the children and young people living in the squatter communities from the dangers and temptations that surround them.

*** Please pray for Sally Escoto and Mila Espanola as they deal with the **Hands of Mercy ministry accounts** in the Philippines and for Keith Barter as he manages the Hands of Mercy accounts in the UK. Give thanks for John Kingham for his help with the Independent Examiner's Report which will be presented to the Charity Commission at the end of the year. Please pray that Hands of Mercy will receive sufficient income to help relieve the material and mental suffering of many of the poorest people in Mandaluyong and in the north of the country in Baguio/La Trinidad. The charity totally relies on the generosity of individuals to fund the Compassion Programmes.

Week 3: November 17th – 24th

*** Please pray for the **Mercy Community Churches** as they celebrate their **23rd Anniversary** in November. Facilities will be rented for the Sunday Service so that the 400 to 500 people expected will be accommodated. The young people from the Mercy Community Church usually give a Christian presentation during the service. Before returning home everyone at the service will be given a meal – an amazing achievement from the HOM staff! Please thank God for the growth of the churches and pray that the members will grow in their relationship with Jesus, God the Son.



Amazing results from small beginnings – praise God!

*** Please remember in prayer the Hands of Mercy staff workers as they plan and prepare for the **Christmas activities** for the sponsored children and young people, as well as the Christmas meal for the malnourished children. Please pray that funds will become available to hold these events and that each child will be able to have a Christmas present. Please pray that the sponsored children and young people will really enjoy their **Christmas parties** and benefit physically from the food prepared. Please also pray that the weather will be dry as the parties take place outdoors, and that whilst enjoying the Christmas food and the party activities, the children will remember Jesus, whose birthday they will be celebrating.

*** Please pray that God will raise up Filipino leaders to be involved with the ministry of Hands of Mercy. Please pray that God will guide the Filipino community to become more self-reliant and able to generate income for themselves to benefit their communities.

Week 4: November 25th – 30th

*** Although often smiling, many Filipinos are hurting, feeling the stress due to lack of money, no regular work, ill health and bad living conditions etc. Please remember them in your prayers. Please pray for those on the Hands of Mercy staff who are widows – Pina, Nenita, Helen and Terie – and for those who are single mums – Ara, Mila and Myrna.

*** “Compassion fatigue” is a modern problem. Being constantly bombarded with good causes makes some people switch off. Please continue to pray that in the case of Hands of Mercy, sufficient income will be received in order to help relieve the suffering of many of the poorest people in Mandaluyong, Manila and in the north of the country in Baguio/La Trinidad.

*** One of Dr. Charles Stanley’s comments in a sermon that he gave was: “*God can accomplish more in a short time than we can in our lifetime. The Lord can do greater things in His way than we can in our way.*”. Please earnestly pray that our Sovereign God for whom 1,000 years are like one day (2 Peter 3:8) will continue to provide for the families living in poverty in Mandaluyong and that many people will come to know God as their personal Saviour.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer.

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Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion.