

News update and subjects for prayers – October 2023

The most difficult prayer, and the prayer which, therefore, costs us the most striving, is persevering prayer, the prayer which faints not, but continues steadfastly until the answer comes. (O. Hallesby)

Week 1: October 1st – 8th

*** The children of the world are innocent, vulnerable and dependent. They are also curious and active. Their time should be one of joy and peace, playing, learning and growing. For many children in the squatter communities the reality of childhood is very different. They live in families that cannot afford electricity, lack sanitation facilities, lack regular income for food and clothes, and need to scavenge the streets daily for any discarded items that might raise a few pesos (the local currency). Please pray that these families will be able to have enough income to be able to have the basic necessities that we take for granted here in the UK.

*** Please continue to pray for Sally Escoto with her many responsibilities as she runs the Compassion Ministry of **Hands of Mercy** and the **Ichthus Water Filtering Business**. Please pray that God will give her wisdom and strength for the many tasks to be dealt with each day.

*** Please pray about the social inequalities across the Philippines, that the government will ensure their economic policies will provide generous assistance to those who are in need, especially the families in the squatter communities. Corrupt practices benefit those who are rich and harm those who are poor. Please pray that the Philippine government at all levels will use its position of power with integrity and honesty and for the benefit of those who live in poverty. Please pray that the families who lost their homes in a recent fire in Block 40 will be able to go into stable accommodation.

Week 2: October 9th – 15th

*** 26 million Filipinos live in poverty according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. Metro Manila, the capitol, is densely populated and many people have to scavenge to survive. Elsewhere the rich live in luxurious gated communities. **Hands of Mercy International** began in 1997 with one street *child*, who took David the founder of HOMI to her *family* living in Florante Street, Mandaluyong, Manila. The contact quickly developed into reaching a whole *community*. 26 years on, Hands of Mercy continues to extend assistance to children and their families living in the different squatter communities of Mandaluyong. Please pray for the compassion ministry and for the funds to help the many needy families.



Week 3: October 16th – 23rd

*** For 26 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 John who deliver the calendars in Luton, for Sam who emails the calendars to people, Denise who prints and posts them and for Fran as she writes and prepares the Prayer Calendar and Update each month.

*** Please remember in prayer the Hands of Mercy staff members who lead the Small Bible Study Groups that meet regularly in the Mandaluyong communities. Pray that each leader will encourage and help nurture each person who attends.

*** 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.

Week 4: October 24th – 31st

*** Please give thanks to God for the many meals Hands of Mercy has served to underweight and malnourished children during the past years through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme**. Please pray that Hands of Mercy will have enough money to continue feeding these children.



*** Please pray for the Pastors of the four **Mercy Community Churches** as they share God's Word each week. At the **Barangka church** there are three services now (two in the morning and one in the afternoon). At **Block 37 and 38 community churches** there are two services, as numbers have increased. Give thanks for the **Worship Teams** at the churches. Please pray for God's enabling as they lead people closer to Him through praise and worship songs. Please also remember in prayer the Youth Leaders of the church, and for Sevalyn as she leads the **Mercy Community Church in Camp 8 in Baguio City**, in the north of the Philippines.

*** **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.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer.

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Restoring hope to the needy through love and compassion.