

Hands of Mercy

Quarterly Update & Prayers: September-November 2024

Update from Sam, Chair

As some of you may know, Auntie Myrna (pictured), a long-standing member of the Hands of Mercy team, sadly passed away towards the end of July. She was a central part of the Hands of Mercy team, instrumental in the Supplementary Feeding Programme in Block 38, a regular preacher as part of the Mercy Community Churches and passionate about helping others. We will miss her greatly. Please remember in prayer her husband, her daughter and all the Hands of Mercy team as we come to terms with her loss.



The Philippines has been hit hard by a number of typhoons during this rainy season and there has been some flooding in the squatter communities. Please continue to pray for safety from the floods as these can be devastating to those living in poverty.

Last of all, by the time this quarter is over, the big 'C' word will be well on our radars – i.e. Christmas! **If you sponsor a family or a child and would like to send them a gift, or would like to bless the work of Hands of Mercy at this time of year, please could you send your gift as early as possible – i.e. October/early November. This will enable us to send the gifts out in time for Christmas.** A gift of £20 for your sponsored child or family will be a great blessing. Thank you for bringing hope to children and families in the Philippines. We couldn't do any of this work without your support and prayer. May you know God's love as you journey through these next few months.

God bless you, Sam
Samantha Graham, Chair, Hands of Mercy International

The Estandian Family – part of the Family Support Programme

The Estandian Family started to be sponsored through the Family Support Programme just last year. Christine Estandian (pictured) and her husband have six children but her husband had a stroke many years ago and is unable to work.



What was life like before you became part of the Family Support Programme?

Back then, we didn't have enough to eat for the day. My children got hungry every day. Most of the time we didn't have food to eat for two days, sometimes we ate once a day only. That's why our lives were so difficult because there was no-one helping us and also because my husband had a stroke.

What difference has the Family Support Programme made to you and your family?

It is a really big help for me and my family because every 15th and 30th of the month, we get to receive rice and groceries. It helps my family to eat at the right time. That's why I'm thankful to the Family Support Programme.

What do you appreciate most about Hands of Mercy?

I'm very thankful to Hands of Mercy because my children get to eat at the right time because of the goods we receive. Back then it was really hard. I looked for food everywhere and sometimes my children cried because of starvation. That's why I'm so thankful to Hands of Mercy. They also helped me to have a

closer relationship with God. I get to attend every Sunday service in the Mercy Community Church.

Do you have a favourite Bible verse?

Yes I have. My favourite verse in the Bible is John 6:35. ***"And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.'"***

Prayer Topics – September-November 2024



1. **Please pray for Auntie Myrna's husband, daughter and the Hands of Mercy team as we adjust to her loss.** Thank God for Auntie Myrna's life and for the difference that she made to so many people during her lifetime.
2. **Pray that the communities will stay safe from flooding during this rainy season.**
3. **Thank God for the Mercy Community Churches** – these provide a place for people in the squatter communities to learn more about Jesus' love for them.
4. **Pray for each of the Hands of Mercy teams that coordinate food distribution as part of the Family Support Programme (FSP) each month.** They work really hard to purchase, package and distribute the food. Some of the team are FSP recipients themselves as all of the HOM team live in the squatter communities and some of them are not in a position to provide for their families.
5. **Please ask God to nudge hearts to bring on board new sponsors for a family, a child or for the work generally.** Our method of fundraising is to pray – please pray that people will respond to God's nudge. If you know someone in your network who would be interested in changing the life of a family or child in the Philippines, please get in contact via the office details below. Thank you.
6. **Please continue to pray for Sally Escoto (Director) and her husband Joey, as they lead Hands of Mercy.** Ask God to "renew their strength" and give them His wisdom as they make decisions day by day.
7. **Pray for hope for each of the families and children living in the squatter communities.** The devil loves to bring despair and hopelessness, particularly through poverty, but we see first-hand the difference that God's love and practical support makes. Thank God for His hope and restoration.

Ways to pray: Why not pick a day each month to pray for Hands of Mercy? Or commit one week of each month to pray through the prayer points? Thank you and God bless you. Until next time!