



News update and subjects for prayer – MAY 2017

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

May 1/2 Please continue to pray for Sally Escoto with her many responsibilities as she runs the Compassion Ministry of Hands of Mercy in the Philippines. Pray that God will give her wisdom and strength for the many tasks to be dealt with each day. Please give thanks to God for Joey and Sally and for their faithful and diligent ministry amongst their poor and needy neighbours. Please continue to pray for the complete healing of Myrna Milan who continues with her cancer treatment.

May 3/4 The Compassion Ministry of Hands of Mercy has made an amazing difference in the lives of poor Filipino families living in the squatter communities – *they are looked down upon and feel they are nobodies, but through Hands of Mercy they have come to know that somebody does care about them.* You can see the change in people's lives and especially for those who have become Christians and belong to one of the five **Mercy Community Churches** that take place in the squatter communities. Please pray for these families.

May 5/6 Please remember in prayer our disabled therapy volunteers who provide care and support to the disabled children and their families - Bing, Tess, Anlyn, Ara, Remy, Inday, Wilma and Vicky. They work four afternoon's a week at the Lingap Kalinga Centre. On a Friday morning there is also therapy for disabled children at the Hands of Mercy Block 38 Centre, and later in the morning there is home care therapy for children who are unable to travel to the Centre. Also free therapy is given to children with disabilities through the **Disabled Therapy Programme** – physical and occupational therapy, speech and hearing impairment therapy and pre-vocational skills training. Also provided is a literacy programme to enhance their skills in reading and writing



May 7/8 *There is enough food in the world to feed everyone, yet one in eight women, men and children go to bed hungry every night, and three million children die from malnutrition every year. We have made progress in other areas, but hunger is still the great scandal of our age.* (Taken from CARE prayer diary and www.enoughfoodif.org) Many families in Mandaluyong in the Philippines, have very little to eat each day. High population growth, social and political unrest and natural disasters have played havoc with the economy in the Philippines for many years, causing widespread poverty and unemployment. This affects the lives of thousands of children, many of whom suffer from malnutrition. Hands of Mercy has eleven feeding areas and serves over 6,000 specially designed meals each month to seriously underweight children. Please pray that through the regular feedings the health of the children will improve, and that people will give financially through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme** to help buy food for the malnourished children.

May 9/10 Please remember in prayer the young people who have graduated from College - Nikki, Lerisa, Vanessa, Joanne, Sherilyn, John Carlo and Andrew - that they will be able to find suitable work. Sponsorship is more than just giving - it is investing in the future. Whilst children are often the greatest victims of poverty, they also hold the key to breaking the cycle of poverty in the future. It is these sponsored children who will build poverty free futures for their families and communities. Please remember them in your prayers. (Please contact the Hands of Mercy Office on 01582 416151 to help sponsor a child)

May 11/12 Give thanks to God for Keith Barter who deals with the Hands of Mercy UK finance and for John Kingham as he deals with the Receipts and Payments accounts etc., which will be presented to the Charity Commission at the end of the year. Please continue to pray that someone who has a deep love for God and a love for the people of the Philippines, especially those in the squatter communities, and has administrative skills will feel God's call on their life to help with the administration of Hands of Mercy. Please contact Fran Gunn by email or letter if God is nudging you to respond. (Contact details at the end)

May 13/14 During this "hot" season, (March–May) please pray for the prevention of fires that can sweep so quickly across the urban poor communities and that each family will continually be alert and aware of the possibility of a fire. Please pray for the safety of all the families.

May 15/16 Give thanks that the **Prescription Medicine Programme** is helping many individuals to purchase their prescribed medicines. Please pray that funds will be available through this compassion programme to help both the adults and children. Although often smiling, many Filipino's 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.

May 17/18 Please pray for the Hands of Mercy staff that they will work together in unity. Pray that God will enable them to keep



persevering in their ministry each day and be good neighbours to the squatter families in Mandaluyong especially when criticized or facing rejection.

May 19/20 Please continue to pray that the ICHTHUS water filtering business will attract more customers and that the staff Involved with be given strength and wisdom as they seek to develop the business.

Please pray for the safety of the drivers who take the water to Companies on the busy roads of Manila.

May 21/22 The social problem that underlines all other social ills in the Philippines is poverty. Poverty is not only a physical condition. Poverty affects the mind and cripples the emotional and spiritual well-being of those it touches. With a current population of approximately 100 million, 35 million live in abject poverty. Please pray for the ministry of Hands of Mercy as it operates programmes of compassion that minister to people's needs, mainly in Mandaluyong, Manila, but also in the city of Baguio in the north of the country. It is staffed by volunteer Filipinos who live in the urban poor communities where Hands of Mercy coordinates it's programmes of compassion. They experience the same living conditions as those they are seeking to serve.

May 23/24 Hands of Mercy continues to offer mothers tubal ligation (surgical sterilization) at the **Friendly Care Clinic**. Please give thanks to God for the help of the medical staff at the Clinic and also for the seminar on family planning they organized for the mothers. Please pray that men will come forward for a vasectomy operation in an attempt to help with birth control.

May 25/26 With the Hands of Mercy financial needs in mind, please pray that supporters will remember the compassion work in their **Wills**. Please pray for the **UK Trustees and the Philippine Trustees** as they meet regularly throughout the year. Pray that they will have wisdom and discernment in the decisions they take and guidance they give to the compassion ministry of Hands of Mercy.

May 27/28 Please continue to pray for all the members of the Mercy Community Church **Men's Group** as they reach out in practical ways to help their poor 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.

May 29/30 Please remember in prayer the Christian young people at the **Mercy Community Churches** that they will be passionate disciples and witnesses for Jesus to those around them. Please also pray for the youth leaders in Mandaluyong – June and Matt and also Jessa and Nonito with the responsibility leadership brings to them. All the young people come from deprived and disadvantaged families.



Mercy Community Church Men's Group

May 31 An Advanced notice! PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION
On Saturday October 14th 2017 (from 1pm - 5pm) we will be celebrating 20 years of Hands of Mercy. We will be having a special Celebration in Stopsley Baptist Church in Luton. Sally and Joey Escoto are planning to be with us, as well as David Gunn, the Founder of the compassion ministry, and the UK Trustees give you a warm invitation to join us all on that Saturday. (A personal invitation will be sent to you during the year.)

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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