



### News update and subjects for prayer – JUNE 2017

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

**June 1/2** Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain...it causes damage to individuals, societies and economic development, both in the UK and overseas. It undermines public service delivery, accountability and the rule of law with devastating consequences for the most vulnerable citizens in many countries. (These words were written by Transparency International.) Please pray that the **Philippine Government** on all levels will use its position of power with integrity and honesty and for the benefit of those who live in poverty. Please pray for all those working in government departments whose actions directly affect poor communities. Whether their decisions relate to health, water, sanitation or other poverty issues, please pray that they have the courage to make choices that benefit those most in need.

**June 3/4** Hands of Mercy helps over fifty families have supplementary food, through the **Family Support Programme**. Each family has a sponsor and this personal contact is an enormous encouragement to those who live in poverty and who need to scavenge daily to provide for their families. Give thanks to God for the existing sponsors and please pray that more people will offer to help a family each month. There are many people in the Mandaluyong communities who often go hungry (If you would like to sponsor a family, please contact the UK office on 01582 416151 or email: [info@handsofmercyph.org](mailto:info@handsofmercyph.org))

Staff member packing food for FSP beneficiaries



**June 5/6** The shanty buildings used by Hands of Mercy for their compassion ministries are rented each month. The buildings are crucial when the rain and typhoons come, as well as giving protection from the heat of the sun. They are essential for the hygienic preparation of the food for the feeding of the children three times a week. They are also used in many other ways. Please pray that money will be given to cover the rents for Kapalaran, Block 37, Block 38, Florante St, St. Rosario and Barangka.

**June 7/8** The next **UK Trustees meeting** will be held on the June 8<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for the trustees that they will have wisdom and discernment in the decisions they take and guidance they give to the compassion ministry of Hands of Mercy and as they prepare for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Charity in October. With the Hands of Mercy financial needs in mind, please pray that supporters will remember the compassion work in their Wills.

**June 9/10** Please remember in prayer the Philippine staff members who are preparing the new **Profile Cards** of the sponsored children and sponsored families for 2017-2018. This takes time as there are many photographs to be taken and information to be written as well as the printing of all the Profile Cards. Please pray for Fran in the UK office as she receives the parcel of Profile Cards from DHL, which then have to be sent, with a letter to all the CSP and FSP sponsors in the UK.

**June 11/12** Please remember in prayer all the **sponsored children** who return to school in June, and also for those older students continuing their college education. Give thanks that many children and students are being helped to have an education during the coming school year. All the beneficiaries have recently received their school uniforms, bags, shoes and school supplies etc., Give thanks for the people who are faithfully sponsoring them, but there are still many children who would benefit from a sponsorship. Please pray that more people will come forward to sponsor. (For details, please contact the UK office on 01582 416151 or email: [info@handsofmercyph.org](mailto:info@handsofmercyph.org))

**June 13/14** During this "hot" season 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.

**June 15/16 June 18th is FATHERS DAY** - Please pray for the fathers of all the sponsored children and for the fathers in the families that receive supplementary food through the Family Support Programme. Give thanks for the men's group at the Mercy Community Church. Please pray that God will enable them as they seek to reach out and help their neighbours. Please pray that the men in the communities who drink, gamble and harshly treat their wives, will meet with the living God and experience a transformation in their lives.

**June 17/18** Please pray for the **Mercy Community Church in Baguio**. In the photo we see some of the children acting and dancing during church service. Please pray for Sevalyn and Godofredo as they lead the church community.



Church service in Mercy Community Church, Baguio

**June 19/20** Please continue to pray for the Staff who share God's word at the **Mercy Community Church in Mandaluyong**. Please also pray for the Hands of Mercy staff who lead and speak at the Small Bible Study Groups that meet regularly in the communities.

Give thanks for those individuals who have become Christians and are now attending one of the Mercy Community Churches.

**June 21/22** Please give thanks and praise to God for His great faithfulness to the **Compassion Ministry of Hands of Mercy** in the Philippines, and pray that we all might have a joyful expectation of all that He plans to bring about in the future.

Please continue to pray that the ICHTHUS water filtering business will attract more customers and that Sally and Joey Escoto and the staff involved will 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.

**June 23/24** Please remember in prayer the Hand of Mercy staff and members of the five churches whose husbands/partners are not believers. Please pray that they will see the change in the lives of believers and the members of their own families and become interested to know more about Jesus. Give thanks for the Christian young people at the **Mercy Community Church** who are living out their faith in a difficult environment, resisting temptation and prepared to share God's love with others. Please pray that they will continue to grow in their Christian faith and be a witness for God in their communities. Give thanks that many people have found faith in Christ and lives have been transformed.

**June 25/26** The UK trustees and friends and supporters of Hands of Mercy are looking forward to meeting the Philippine Director and her husband in October at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the compassion ministry. Please pray that money will be given to help pay for the air fares and visas of Sally and Joey Escoto. Air fares have increased considerably since their last visit in 2012, and the UK trustees would be very grateful for any financial help as funds are low at the moment.

**June 27/28** The UK Trustees would greatly value your prayers as the income to run the **Hands of Mercy Compassion Programmes** has dropped and funds are low. Please pray that there will be increased giving and more donors and churches supporting the ministry of Hands of Mercy. We do not want to stop offering the Programmes of Compassion to the needy, but unless we receive more gifts the Trustees may be compelled to cut some. The **Supplementary Feeding Programme** is a vital one as Hands of Mercy feeds so many malnourished children, also the Disabled, Surgical and Prescription Medicine programmes are an enormous help to the families living in the squatter communities. As well as the Programmes, there are also the costs of administration in the UK and the Philippines, as well as rents, electricity, honorariums etc., in the Philippines.

**June 29/30 An Advanced notice! PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION**

**On Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> 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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