



News update and subjects for prayer – NOVEMBER 2017

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

Nov 1/2 The owner of the Sto. Rosario shanty building that is used for the Mercy Community Church and the feeding of the children, has told the staff of Hands of Mercy to find another place to rent by the end of the year. Please pray that the staff will find suitable accommodation in the Sto. Rosario squatter community, so they can continue holding the Sunday Services, and the thrice weekly feeding for the children.

Nov 3/4 Give thanks to God for the positive and worthwhile time that people experienced during the **Hands of Mercy 20th Anniversary Celebration** in October. It was a special occasion and so encouraging to see many people interested and committed in helping the needy families in the squatter communities of the Philippines. The afternoon was held in Stopsley Baptist Church, Luton, and David Gunn the Founder of the ministry and Sally Escoto the director in the Philippines spoke during the afternoon. Joey Escoto brought news about the Mercy Community Church, as well as Ichthus the Water Filtering Business. There was a special time when everyone was encouraged to go "scavenging" for cardboard, plastic bottles and other items of rubbish. Depending on what they found, pesos were given to them to buy food for one meal for their family. It was a stark reminder of how difficult it was for many families to enjoy having just one meal a day. God has greatly blessed this ministry over the past years and we give thanks for all that He has done for the families living in the squatter communities of Manila. A number of people brought tinned goods, spaghetti, pasta, toiletries, clothes etc., which have been being packed into jumbo cargo boxes and are now on their way to Hands of Mercy in Manila. Please pray that the boxes will arrive safely and that the items will be a help and blessing to many children and adults.



Cargo boxes on their way to the Philippines



Sorting out the contents of the boxes on arrival

Nov 5/6 Give thanks to God for the wisdom and enabling He gave to Sally and Joey Escoto as they spoke at the 20th Anniversary, as well as in churches, schools and other meetings during their time in the UK. Please pray that God will touch the hearts of individuals and give them the burden to help the poor through the compassion ministry of Hands of Mercy. As Sally and Joey have now returned home to the Philippines please continue to pray that they will both have God's strength and wisdom in their leadership roles in Hands of Mercy and in the Mercy Community Church. Please also give thanks for the time and effort the UK trustees and other friends gave to make the 20th Anniversary so special.

Nov 7/8 Please pray that during this rainy season God will protect the people from the effects of typhoons, thunderstorms and serious flooding and help them cope in their poverty if the flood waters enter their shanty homes.

Nov 9/10 On the second Sunday of November the **Mercy Community Churches** will be celebrating their 17th Anniversary. Please join the church members in thanking God for what He has done in and through the church and for the people in the community. The church members are planning to have lunch together after the Anniversary service. Please pray that this time together will be a special encouragement to all who attend Mercy Community Church.

Nov 11/12 Please continue to pray that the **ICHTHUS water filtering business** will continue to grow and that the staff involved will be given strength and wisdom as they develop the business. Please continue to pray for the safety of the drivers who take the water to companies on the very busy roads of Manila. Please also give thanks for the generous gift recently given, which will allow a new machine to be added to the business. The water produced from this machine will hopefully attract more customers and help the business to grow.

Nov 13/14 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 God their Heavenly Father and discover how He can give them a different attitude towards others and a new purpose in life.

Nov 15/16 Please pray that more people in the UK will want to sponsor a child for an education through the **Child Sponsorship Programme**. Sally Escoto says there are many children in the Mandaluyong and Baguio squatter communities who would benefit from having a sponsor. Education for their children is “high on the list” for parents, but for those families living in poverty and who scavenge each day to obtain a few pesos, it is too expensive to send a child to school. Please pray that more people will contact the UK Hands of Mercy office to offer to sponsor a child (office number: 01582 416151)

Nov 17/18 A new **2017 video** has been produced for Hands of Mercy and this can be seen on: **YouTube.com – under Hands of Mercy Philippines**. Please pray that God will use this video to enhance the compassion ministry and that it will be seen by interested individuals who would be encouraged to help with the needs of the squatter communities.

Nov 19/20 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 out of doors, and that whilst enjoying the Christmas food and party activities, the children will remember Jesus, whose birthday they will be celebrating.

Nov 21/22



Nov 23/24 The **Family Support Programme** is an enormous help to the very poor and needy families in Mandaluyong, many of whom need to scavenge each day to afford a meal. Hands of Mercy needs more sponsors to help these people receive supplementary food each month. We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can change the life of a family. Please pray that God will nudge concerned individuals to offer to sponsor a “family” with food items.

£20 a month would make a difference in a family's life. Please contact the UK office on 01582 416151 if you would like to help a family. At the moment we have 13 families waiting for help.

Nov 25/26 Please pray for the: **Worship team in Barangka Church:** Nonito Ramirez, Esmael Olchondra, Alred Toribio and Cherry Lou Boquero. In **Sto Rosario Church:** Mark Monte, Edrian Eduardo and Juliano Clyde. In **Block 38 Church:** Jessa Lubiano, Shaibert Botacion, Thesa Tapel, Christine Jamon and Angelika Rubas. In **Block 37 Church:** Sherilyn Viagedor, Andrew Valdez and Artpol Magtabog.

Nov 27/28 Please continue to pray for the **Pastors of the Mercy Community Churches** and for those who share God's Word at the Services. Barangka: Pastor Joey Escoto – Speakers Bing Solsona, Maria Gabon and Ara Torrefranca. Block 38: Pastors Greg and Remy Lubiano – Speakers Myrna Milan and Robert Botacion. Block 37: Pastor Beth Tocyapao – Speaker Tess Magtabog. Sto. Rosario: Pastor Analyn Eduardo – Speaker Wilma Boquero. Baguio: (in the north) Pastor and Speakers Sevalyn Landa and Godofredo Villoriente.

Nov 29/30 At the beginning of December it will be the 5th Anniversary of the **Mercy Community Church in Baguio City** in the north of the Philippines. Please give thanks to God for the growth in membership of the church during the past months, and please continue to pray for Sevalyn who leads the church with the help of Godofredo, Marilou and Mary Ann. Please also pray for Sevalyn as she coordinates the Child Sponsorship Programme in Baguio.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

UK: 95 Edgewood Drive, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 8ER Tel: 01582 416151
Philippines: P.O. Box 034 Central Post Office, 1550 Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Tel: (632) 531 2241 Email: info@handsofmercyph.org Internet:www.handsofmercyph.org