



HANDS OF MERCY Philippines

News update and subjects for prayer – AUGUST 2017

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

Aug 1/2 The UK Trustees would greatly value your continued 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 please give thanks to God for the recent generous gift received from a church in Luton. This was a wonderful answer to prayer.

Aug 3/4 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.)

Aug 5/6 Give thanks for the recent visit of David Gunn to the Philippines. He spent time with the compassion ministry and met the Hands of Mercy staff, spoke at two Mercy Community Churches, and was a great encouragement to all involved with the compassion ministry.



David with some of the HOM staff at his farewell meal

Aug 7/8 Whilst many in the UK are thinking about holidays at this time, please pray for the Filipino families who never have the opportunity to leave their communities and enjoy the beauty of the countryside. Many families, including the children walk around late at night or early morning in the Mandaluyong area acting as unofficial refuse collectors. They are scavengers and are looking for any items they can sell. Through these refuse items they hope to earn a few pesos to buy food for their families. Please pray that the parents will find suitable work with a better income.

Aug 9/10 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 seminars on family planning. Please pray that men will come forward for a vasectomy operation in an attempt to help with birth control.

Aug 11/12 Please 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 are overleaf.)

Aug 13/14 Sponsorship Programmes – Child Sponsorship and Family Support. A huge difference can be made in the life of a poor child by sponsoring their education and health needs and/or sponsoring a very poor family and supporting them with supplementary food each month. (If you would like to help a child or a family, please contact the UK office on 01582 416151.)

Aug 15/16 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 20th Anniversary of the compassion ministry. Please pray that Sally and Joey Escoto will receive their visas and that the flights booked for them will be affordable for HOM and fit in with their arrangements as well as the arrangements in the UK.

Aug 17/18 Please pray that money will be available through the **Surgical Treatment Programme** to help families living in the squatter communities of Mandaluyong. With no National Health Service in the Philippines, families living in poverty will never have enough money to pay for any hospital treatment, which means unless someone helps them, they just continue to suffer with their physical ailments. Please pray for the family of Benny Reyes – Benny became very ill due to the incessant heat and with lack of money for the hospital, sadly passed away in the middle of July.

Aug 19/20 Hands of Mercy's compassion ministry is primarily focused on the needs of the poor living in Mandaluyong City. Mandaluyong is one of fourteen cities within Metro Manila, and has a population of approximately 328,699. The city is divided into 27 districts (called a "barangay") and is home to many urban poor communities. Hands of Mercy Philippines currently has teams working in eleven urban poor communities in Mandaluyong City. These communities are called: Florante, San Miguel, Sto. Rosario, Malaya, Hinahon, Busilak, Silangan, Kayumanggi, Block 37, Block 38, Block 40 in Welfareville. Please pray for the Filipino staff as they work each week amongst the people living in these communities.

Aug 21/22 Because of flooding and fire, the **Home Improvement Programme** has grown considerably. When funds allow, Hands of Mercy has been able to help people build a breeze block home, with a toilet, and for extra money, water can be piped into the house. This gives them security and keeps them safe from rain, typhoons, and the heat of the sun. Please pray that HOM can help more families have their own home and stop living under plastic sheeting, pieces of wood etc. Two families who are having ongoing construction have recently told Sally Escoto that without the help of HOM they would not have been able to build their house and the local government would then take away the land given to them.



Building a new home through the Home Improvement Programme

Aug 23/24 Please pray for the safety of Christians in the most southern part of the Philippines on the island of Mindanao. In the city of Marawi there is a strong Muslim presence and it has long been home to violent Islamist groups seeking to create an independent Islamic state. This area of the Philippines is a long way from Mandaluyong, where Hands of Mercy is working. Please pray that these extremist views would not take root in the country.

Aug 25/26 The owner of the building that Sto. Rosario uses for Mercy Community Church and the feeding of the children has told 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, where they can continue holding the Sunday Services, and the thrice weekly feeding for the children.

Aug 27/28 Please pray for the five **Mercy Community Churches** as they meet Sunday by Sunday. Please pray for Joey as he leads the church in the Plainview community, for Greg and Remy as they lead the church in Block 38 community, for Beth as she leads the church in Block 37 community and for Anlyn as she leads the church in the Sto. Rosario community. 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 – June and Robert – and for Sevalyn as she leads the Mercy Community Church in Camp 8 in Baguio City, in the north of the Philippines.

Aug 29/30 Please continue to pray for the "Men's Group" at the Mercy Community Church as they befriend and help men who now attend the church to grow in their faith and relationship with God. Please pray for them too, as they reach out in practical ways to help their neighbours in the communities. Please also pray for the ladies who meet regularly to study the Bible in their "Home Groups". May they too mature in their faith and love of their Heavenly Father.

Aug 31 Please continue to pray for Sally Escoto with her many responsibilities as she runs the Compassion Ministry of Hands of Mercy. Please also pray for the twenty eight members of staff, all of whom live in the squatter communities. Pray that God will give them wisdom and strength for the many tasks to be dealt with each day. Please give thanks to God for Joey and Sally and all the Hands of Mercy staff for their faithful and diligent ministry among their poor and needy neighbours.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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