

News update and subjects for prayer – AUG/SEPT 2008

I can do everything through HIM who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

Everyone knows about the rice crisis in the Philippines and how it affects many needy families. People are still desperate to find the Government rice which is sold at a cheaper price. The Hands of Mercy Supplementary Feeding Programme has helped many children. One mother said recently, "this is such a wonderful blessing to my family as three of my children are enrolled in the programme. My husband is only a shoe repairer and earns a very small wage. There are days when he is not earning at all, and without the feeding programme I do not know where I will get food to give to my children. I am so happy that my children are included in the programme and thankful to Hands of Mercy for what they are doing in our community. I pray that this help will last a long time".
Sally Escoto

Aug/Sept 1/2 The building **Hands of Mercy rents in Sikap Street** did have a buyer but he has pulled out. The owners have said Hands of Mercy can continue to rent the premises, which are so suitable for the variety of ministries. Please pray that we will be able to cover the recently increased rent and that if a buyer does come forward, the team will be guided to other suitable accommodation.

Aug/Sept 3/4 The **Child Sponsorship Programme Annual Physical Examination** has recently been completed with 18 children and their families diagnosed with tuberculosis. Please pray for the recovery of these young people, and also for the provision of funds to cover their treatment costs. Please remember in prayer Tess Magtabog and her team who staff our Tuberculosis Treatment Programme. Please also pray that funds will become available to help those who need operations through the **Surgical Treatment Programme**.

Aug/Sept 5/6 Give thanks to God that through the **Home Improvement Programme** families whose homes were destroyed by recent typhoons are receiving help to rebuild. Also the roof on the Hands of Mercy centre at Block 37, and the windows and stairs in the Hilaga centre needed repairing. Please pray for Joey Escoto as he co-ordinates the work needed and for funds to pay for the materials.

Aug/Sept 7/8 Many families known to Hands of Mercy are living in extreme poverty struggling to provide for their daily needs, even more so with the rice shortage and the price increase of other commodities. These families depend on scavenging. Jobs are difficult to find and salaries are very low. Thirty families are receiving supplementary food assistance through the **Family Support Programme**. Please pray that more people will be willing to sponsor a needy family. (if you can help a family, please contact Fran at the UK office)

Aug/Sept 9/10 Please remember in prayer all those involved in producing the new **Hands of Mercy brochure**. Please pray that it will be used by God to tell people about the various partnership options they can have with Hands of Mercy. Please pray that the website (www.handsofmercyph.org) will also be used by God to inform people about the compassion work.

Aug/Sept 11/12 Please pray for **Sally Escoto**, who has many responsibilities as she runs the Compassion Ministry of Hands of Mercy, as well as overseeing the Mercy Community Church. Pray that God will give her wisdom, and strength for the many tasks to be dealt with each day. Please pray also for **Mila Espanola** as she manages the ministry accounts.

Aug/Sept 13/14 Hands of Mercy has been experiencing a **decrease in income** due to the drop in the rate of the peso to the pound. This continues to have a noticeable impact on all the eight compassion programmes. Please continue to pray that this discrepancy can be offset through increased giving and more donors and sponsors coming on board.

Aug/Sept 15/16 Please remember in prayer our volunteer workers in the communities of **Florante Street** – Bing Solsona, Anilyn, Terie and Margie. Give thanks to God that with an increase in numbers there are now two Small Groups meeting in the community. At the beginning of the year a new feeding began in **Block 40** in Welfareville. This is an extension of the feeding in **Block 38**. Please pray for the team as they visit the market early in the morning to buy rice, vegetables and fruit for the children.

Aug/Sept 17/18 The Asian rice shortage is still affecting the families in Mandaluyong, as well as in other parts of the Philippines. Please continue to pray for all the Hands of Mercy team as they seek to feed their own families, as well as serve three meals a week through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme** for the many malnourished children who depend so much on these meals. Please pray that God will provide for them.

Aug/Sept 19/20 As the work of Hands of Mercy develops and with it the **UK administration**, please continue to pray for Fran Gunn as she runs the UK office on a daily basis. Please pray that God will raise up people to give additional help in the office. Please also pray for the **Hands of Mercy** and **Mercy Community Church** administrative tasks, which need to be accomplished on a daily basis in the Philippines.

Aug/Sept 21/22 Please continue to pray for 4 year old Krizzia Angel Laniwan who visited the hospital recently over the surgery needed on her club feet. Please pray that Krizzia's surgery will go ahead. Please pray that gifts will be given to the **Surgical Treatment Programme** to pay for Krizzia's operation as well as the other operations children and adults need.

Aug/Sept 23/24 Thank God for those who give their time as **UK Trustees**. Please pray that they will have wisdom and discernment in the decisions they make and guidance they give to Hands of Mercy. Please pray for the Trustees meeting on September 28th. Please also remember in prayer the **Philippine Trustees** as they meet every two months.

Aug/Sept 25/26 Please continue to pray for the members of staff whose husbands are without regular work, and also for those who have yet to make a spiritual commitment. Please pray too, for those who are single mums and widows.

Aug/Sept 27/28 Please continue to pray for the **Prescription Medicine Programme** that additional funds will be donated so we can continue to extend help to those who cannot afford to purchase medicines prescribed by a local doctor. So many children and adults suffer with chest illnesses, and are unable to buy antibiotics to help them recover. Each week through the **Disabled Therapy Programme** Hands of Mercy staff have a special ministry helping young children. Please pray for the faithful team who provide care and support to disabled children and their families.

Aug/Sept 29/30 Please give thanks to God for the re-organization of the church **Youth Group** which now has 40 members. Please pray for Joey and Sally as they prepare for and run this weekly activity. Give thanks to God for the three **Mercy Community Churches**. Please remember in prayer all those who regularly share God's Word at the services and lead the worship.

Aug 31 Please pray for our volunteer workers in the communities of : **St. Rosario** – Vicky, Mariette, Diana, Rebecca, Brenda and Reggie. **Ginhawa** – Mila, Bing Sagusoy, Pina and Tess I. **Kayamungi** – Anita, Dhea, Tess M and Jane. Hands of Mercy staff have their own emotional, physical and financial needs but they are grateful to God for all He is doing in and through their lives and value your continued prayerful support.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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