



HANDS OF MERCY
Philippines

News update and subjects for prayer – FEBRUARY 2010

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Feb 1/2 Please remember in prayer the Filipino people in Mandaluyong as they continue to recover from the trauma of the October flooding and November fire. The past months have been emotionally and physically demanding for Sally Escoto the director, as well as the Hands of Mercy team, as they have reached out in practical ways to help their very poor neighbours.

Feb 3/4 With the growth of the compassion ministry, especially in Mandaluyong, please thank God for those who give their time as **UK Trustees**, and pray that they will have wisdom and discernment in the decisions they take and guidance they give to Hands of Mercy. Please also remember in prayer the **Philippine Trustees** as they meet regularly throughout the year.

Feb 5/6 With the **Philippine election** period now officially underway, the top presidential candidates have been whittled down to five people. Please pray for a peaceful and fair national election which will be held during May 2010 and that the person chosen to be the new president will govern with integrity and choose a government that will look to the needs of the most vulnerable in the country.

Feb 7/8 The work on the new homes in **Block 37** has begun and Hands of Mercy has been able to help a number of families. Please pray that the homes for the Banares family, Camacho family, Castro family, Rone family and Gutual family will soon be completed. Give thanks to God for gifts given to help with the construction work. Please also pray that the government will deal with the land and construct proper drainage to prevent it flooding again when the next typhoon hits the country. Many families in the area are struggling to complete their homes through lack of money, and are using makeshift tents to protect them from the heat and rain. Please pray that the City Mayor and City Congressman will really help each family to cover the expenses of rebuilding their homes.

Feb 9/10 Give thanks to God that sponsors have come forward to help malnourished baby **Rodelyn Seguerra** and her very poor family, as well as **Sonny and Gerlita Sabado's** family. These families were mentioned in previous calendars. Please pray for the 44 poorest families who are being sponsored each month and given supplementary food assistance.

Feb 11/12 Please pray for Sally Escoto and Mila Espanola as they deal with the Hands of Mercy ministry accounts in the Philippines and for Keith Barter as he manages the Hands of Mercy accounts in the UK. Please also pray for Fran Gunn in the office with the growing amount of Hands of Mercy administration, and give thanks that Sam Waterton is helping with the Family Support Programme. With the Hands of Mercy financial needs in mind, please pray that supporters will remember the compassion work in their Wills.

Feb 13/14 Many women known to the Hands of Mercy team have partners who beat them, and who waste their meagre income on drink, drugs and extramarital affairs. Please pray for the strength and courage these ladies need to face the daily struggles of living with an abusive partner

Feb 15/16 Through the **Surgical Treatment Programme** many children and a few adults have been helped with their physical needs through surgery. Please pray for seven year old **Genesis Carpio** who has had one operation, but is still suffering with stomach problems and needs another one. There is no national health system in the Philippines and the government hospital has told the parents the operation will cost 25,000 pesos (approx. £332) Please pray that Genesis parents will have the money to help their son. Please also pray for **Ana Rose Castro** who is scheduled for her second cleft lip and palate operation in February.

Feb 17/18 Hands of Mercy has ten feeding areas and serves over 6,000 specially designed meals each month to thin and underweight children. Beneficiaries are selected according to age and needs and whose parents have no regular income or work. Please pray for the Hands of Mercy staff workers who work tirelessly to prepare and serve the food three times a week. Please pray too, that through the regular feedings the health of the children will improve. With the drop in the rate of the peso to the pound this is affecting the cost of purchasing the food. Please pray that people will give financially through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme** to help buy food for the malnourished children.

Feb 19/20 Please remember in prayer our staff workers in the communities of: **St. Rosario** - Vicky, Rommela, Diana, Marietta Brenda and Rebecca. **Ginhawa** - Mila, Pina and Tess I. **Kayamunggi** - Anita, Dhea, Maria and Joey. **Block 37** - Fina, Beth and Girlie. **Block 38 and 40** - Remy, Helen, Ara, Mina and Liza. **Florante Street** - Bing, Analyn and Terie. Please pray that the Hands of Mercy staff workers will continue to see God as their provider as they sacrificially give to the needs of others, even though they suffer from the same hardships.

Feb 21/22 Each month Hands of Mercy staff workers receive a small honorarium for the work they do amongst their urban poor neighbours. Please pray that the necessary finances will be available, as the staff depend so much on receiving this financial help. Poverty is not only a physical condition, but it affects the mind and cripples the emotional and spiritual well-being of the people.

Feb 23/24 **Aida Villa Carlos** is a single parent and has two children. Aida would really benefit from having a sponsor through the **Family Support Programme**. Please continue to pray that **Cordio and Elena Dalangpan** will also have a sponsor. The family of **Princess Cesar** who is 16 years old, would love to have a sponsor. Princess is a "special young lady" with learning difficulties. She needs to receive medicine for life and her family are poor and not able to provide for her. (If you would like to help one of these families please contact the UK office on 01582 416151)

Feb 25/26 Please pray for the members of the **Men's Group at the Mercy Community Church**, as they reach out in practical ways to help their neighbours in the needy area of Block 9 in Mandaluyong. Please pray that their monthly visits to the community will be positive and encouraging and that good contacts are made with the families.

Feb 27/28 On April the 4th the **Mercy Community Church** will be celebrating their Anniversary during the morning service. Please pray for the preparation for this event, and for the church Worship Team who are planning a special Christian concert in the afternoon with the theme of "God's love".

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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