



# HANDS OF MERCY

## Philippines

### News update and subjects for prayer – JULY 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*

**July 1/2** Hands of Mercy continues to experience a decrease in income due to the drop in the rate of the peso to the pound. Please pray that this discrepancy can be offset through increased giving and more donors supporting the work of Hands of Mercy. Please pray that there will be more opportunities in churches to share about the compassion ministry in the Philippines.

**July 3/4** Our Hands of Mercy staff workers, who live in poverty themselves, are under enormous pressure as they help their neighbours in the communities. Some cannot afford electricity, lack sanitation facilities, have illness in the family, have homes that at any time could be affected by fire or typhoons, and some who need to regularly scavenge. Please pray today for our staff in the communities of: **Kapalaran** – Tess M, Cristina, Inday and Ema. **Agudo** – Wilma, Alberta and Jenny. **Hilaga** – Mryna, Gina. Margie and Nenita.

**July 5/6** Please remember in prayer Beth Tocypao and Mark Monte as they both need operations on their goitre's. With no National Health in the Philippines the operations will cost about £200. Please pray that gifts will be given through the **Surgical Treatment Programme** so that their operation costs can be met. Please continue to pray for **Genesis Carpio** and **Ana Rose Castro**, two young malnourished children who are hoping to have their operations this month. They need to be physically fit to cope with the surgery.

**July 7/8** Give thanks that over 150 students are being helped to have an education through the **Child Sponsorship Programme**. Please pray for them as they travel to and from school in all weather conditions. Please pray for their safety from opportunists who try to steal their money and personal items when travelling on jeepney's and buses.

**July 9/10** Children are the greatest victims of poverty as well as abuse. Of the 2.2 billion children in our world today nearly half of them live in desperate conditions. Due to severe hardship, some of our **Child Sponsorship Programme** beneficiaries are required by their parents to scavenge in between their studies to help provide an income for their family. Please pray that the physical stress of scavenging will not have an adverse affect on their studies. Please also pray that these families will have an increase in their finances so that the children are not sent out to work.

**July 11/12** Rice is the staple diet of the Filipino. With the increase in the price of rice, many people struggle to buy enough for their families. Hands of Mercy tries to give a "rice gift" to the staff workers in the Philippines three times a year, which costs approx. £2,000. Please pray that money will be given to the Compassion Ministry so that we can continue helping the Hands of Mercy team, in this and other ways, who work tirelessly amongst their poor and needy neighbours.

**July 13/14** 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 pray for the Trustees meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> July. Also remember in prayer the **Philippine Trustees** as they meet regularly.

**July 15/16** There are many families in Mandaluyong whose only income is through scavenging. The adults, as well as the children go out each day to see what they can find. Please pray that more sponsors will come forward to help these families through the **Family Support Programme**. **Vangie Legaspi, Aida Villa Carlos and Vernel and Marjorie Ancheta** would greatly value having a sponsor in order to receive supplementary food each month. Please pray that people will offer to sponsor a family. (If you can help please contact the UK office on 01582 416151)

**July 17/18** Every time we use the toilet or turn on a tap today, thank God that our water and sanitation is clean, safe and a few short steps away. Please pray for those in the communities of Mandaluyong where the lack of adequate sanitation facilities is a real health risk. Please pray that the **local government** will empower the people to develop and improve their own water and sanitation systems, and be willing to help the families in **Block 37** who lost their homes and belongings in the horrific fire last November.

**July 19/20** 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. 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.

**July 21/22** Please pray for Mila Espanola as she manages the compassion ministry accounts in the Philippines. Please pray for Ara Torre Franca as she grieves over the loss of her daughter Joy.

**July 23/24** One of the Compassion Programmes of Hands of Mercy gives free therapy to children with disabilities through the **Disabled Therapy Programme** - physical and occupational therapy, speech and hearing impairment therapy and pre-vocational skills training. Hands of Mercy also provides a literacy programme to enhance the children's skills in reading and writing. Please remember in prayer all our Disabled Therapy volunteers, and also the work of Project TEACH (Therapy, Education and Assimilation of Children with Handicap) This Project is in partnership with the City Government and its local officers, with a Hands of Mercy staff worker sitting on their committee.

**July 25/26** 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. Please pray that money will be given to cover the rents for **Hilaga, Kapalaran, Block 38, Block 37, Florante and St. Rosario**, as well as the building in **Sikap Street** which has been converted into an office and multi-purpose centre and is a strategic support base for the compassion ministry. Three of the above buildings are used for a Sunday morning service.

**July 27/28** The Hands of Mercy staff often meet people who feel rejected and neglected, who desperately want to change their lives. Many share testimonies at church about how God is changing them. Please pray that these individuals will be given strength to overcome their vices and have determination to live a moral and Godly life. 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.

**July 29/30** 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. Every Thursday Sally shares God's Word to the Hands of Mercy staff, who then in turn teach the Word to the members of the Small Groups in the Communities.

**July 31** "Compassion fatigue" is a modern disease. Being constantly bombarded with good causes makes some people switch off. Please continue to pray that in the case of Hands of Mercy sufficient income will be received in order to help relieve the material and spiritual suffering of many of the poorest people in Mandaluyong, Manila and in the north of the country in Baguio/La Trinidad.

**Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer**

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