

News update and subjects for prayer – NOVEMBER 2009

Proverbs 14:31 “Whoever is kind to the needy honours God”

On September 26th typhoon Ketsana hit the Philippines and caused the worst flood in decades. It blew across the main island of Luzon and swamped the capital Manila, washing away homes, marooning people on top of buildings and rendering many areas inaccessible. Many lives were lost and thousands of people left homeless. My daughter June was stranded overnight trying to return from college. We were greatly concerned for her safety and as the water was so deep my husband and I were unable to go and look for her. All we could do was to pray for her safety. I was not able to sleep the whole night - early the following morning she arrived home with her uniform very wet and dirty. We felt so relieved and praised God for her safety. Many of the families we know were badly affected and so we began a relief operation. I was overwhelmed with what I saw and heard and my heart was broken. The immediate need was to give out food and help with clothes. Because of the enormity of the task we were able to borrow a vehicle with a driver to take the goods where we could get through to the most needy areas. We used a truck that usually took pigs to the slaughter house! Of course, this would not be possible without the gifts of money that you have been giving. At the moment many people are suffering diarrhoea, leptospirosis, dengue fever, severe rashes and other diseases. We have been helping many families to buy medicine and have laboratory tests as the people here do not have the money for this. Without the medicines people are dying. Please be assured that your gifts are a wonderful help to many families. Thank you for the effort you have made and for your continued prayers. *Sally Escoto*

Nov 1/2 Give thank to God that Kristopher Madrelijos, who is 7 and Glydel Fulgar 14, now have a sponsor through the **Child Sponsorship Programme**. There are so many children who would love to go to school. Please pray that more people will be willing to help a child have an education (if you can help please contact the UK office on 01582 416151)

Nov 3/4 Give thanks to God that money has been given for **Jo Jo Teves**, the brother of Mila Espanola, to have an operation on his goitre, and for the medication costs of **Dante Sedeno** and **Michael Zilmar** who are suffering from TB and Hepatitis B. Please continue to pray that Jo Jo, Dante and Michael will be healed.

Nov 5/6 Give thanks to God for the recent visit of Ian, Carol and Sarah Macdougall, and David, Jane, Sarah and Grace Alexander. Their involvement with the Hands of Mercy Team, the young people, community visitation, small group and church attendance, as well as helping with the feeding of the malnourished children, was really appreciated by everyone they met.

Nov 7/8 Give thanks to God for the Churches and individual people who have given to the **Hands of Mercy Flood Appeal** so that we have been able to help many desperate families. As the waters recede and families are cleaning their shanty homes from mud etc., please pray that we will be able to help those who are suffering from dengue fever, leptospirosis, diarrhoea, diphtheria and other diseases. At one point 80% of the capital was under water, with the storm affecting 2 million people and forcing the evacuation of 567,000 people (report from CNN.com) Please pray that the people may know God's peace and strength during this time of difficulty.

Nov 9/10 Please pray for **Joey Escoto** as he oversees the repair work on shanty homes and electrical equipment affected by the flood. Pray that he will be given wisdom and be able to prioritise where the greatest need is. Please also remember in prayer, **Sally Escoto** as she deals with the many desperate people coming to the Hands of Mercy office for help with medication, food, housing, repairs etc., Please pray that money will be given to help these people as their physical needs will continue for a long time.

Nov 11/12 Please also pray for the families of the **Child Sponsorship Programme in Baguio/La Trinidad**, some of whom have been affected by the second typhoon Parma that hit the northern part of the Philippines. All the families we know are safe. Baguio City is built in the mountains and there have been many landslides with homes buried and damaged by the typhoon. Water became the Philippines biggest enemy as Parma dumped as much as 36 inches of rain, compounding misery in areas already flooded by typhoon Ketsana. (report from CNN.com)

Nov 13/14 Please continue to pray that **Cordio and Elena Dalangpan** and **Sonny and Gerlita Sabado** will also have a sponsor through the **Family Support Programme**. Please pray for the many little children who need supplementary milk and vitamins. Many parents do not have enough money to feed their families and the physical state of the children is extremely poor. (If you can help the above families or one of the many other very poor families in Mandaluyong, please contact the UK office on 01582 416151)

Nov 15/16 Give thanks to God that **Mrs. Samantha Waterton** has offered to help with some of the administration of Hands of Mercy and will be looking after the **Family Support Programme**. 42 of the poorest families are being sponsored each month, and given supplementary food assistance. Please pray for Sam as she takes over this new responsibility.

Nov 17/18 We are grateful to God for **His continued faithful provision** of funds for the compassion programmes. With the increase in prices, and the decrease in the peso rate - (73 pesos instead of 96 to the pound) Hands of Mercy is still in need of more financial support. Please pray that more donors and sponsors will be willing to help the poor and deprived Filipino's in Mandaluyong, Baguio and La Trinidad.

Nov 19/20 Please remember in prayer our staff workers in the communities of: **Kapalaran** - Tess M, Cristina, Inday, and Ema. **Agudo** - Wilma, Alberta and Jenny. **Hilaga** - Mryna, Maria, Gina and Nenita. Please also pray for **Lourdes Cadatal** as she co-ordinates the Child Sponsorship beneficiaries in Baguio/LaTrinidad with their educational and health needs.

Nov 21/22 Recently, Mary Laurie Laguilles who is 7 years old underwent tests to check her eye condition. As she has lost her vision in one eye, the doctor recommended that she had artificial eye surgery when she was aged 10 so that a dual operation could be made to correct her face deformity. Please pray for Mary and her family for healing, and for their emotional needs as they wait for the operation. Please pray that funds will be available for Mary Laurie through the **Surgical Treatment Programme**.

Nov 23/24 Please pray for some of the **Hands of Mercy team as they visit the local prison** in Mandaluyong and hold two Bible study small groups with some of the prisoners. The team discovered that the prisoners do not get enough food, and after prayer felt God say they were "to feed the people in Body, Mind and Spirit". Even with their own hardships, the team decided to take up an offering each week at the end of their staff training. Each week the team give sacrificially so that food can be taken to the prisoners, some of them just young boys.

Nov 25/26 Part of our **family planning** initiative is to provide free tubal ligation to women from urban poor communities. A number of women have already had the operation. Please pray that additional funds will be donated so that further operations can be financed through the **Surgical Treatment Programme**.

Nov 27/28 Please remember in prayer our Filipina 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 gift.

Nov 29/30 Newspapers and TV news reports keep us up to date on the financial situation in the UK. Not so widely reported is the devastating effect the global downturn is having on people living in poverty. Please pray that leaders in countries around the world, who are making decisions in response to the financial crisis, will have wisdom, courage and unity, to help the world recover from the crisis.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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