

News update and subjects for prayer –OCTOBER 2008

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

Many of you will know that in May 2007, David Gunn returned to the UK after 17 years of ministering in the Philippines. He was planning to settle but now after a much needed time of rest and refreshment, he believes the Lord wants him to rejoin the team in the Philippines to focus on the programme and organisational development of the work. The UK and Philippines trustees are whole heartedly behind David's decision as I am. As Hands of Mercy Director, I will continue to provide overall leadership of the ministry as well as the day to day operations. David's return also means that there will be someone with me who knows both cultures and who can help see things through western eyes as the work develops in the UK and the Philippines. Because we have been friends for many years and have worked through many challenging situations, we know this new arrangement will work well. Sally Escoto

October 1/2 Please pray that a sponsor will come forward under the **Family Support Programme** to help the family of Ana Rose Castro – a nine month severely malnourished baby. When she is stronger Ana Rose will need an operation on her cleft lip and palate. Her mother, who is single, looks malnourished and she and the children desperately need support. Please pray for the family.

October 3/4 During October the beneficiaries of our **Supplementary Feeding Programme** will be treated for worm infestation. Give thanks to God for the effectiveness of the treatment process. Michelle (15 years old) recently underwent liver surgery to remove worms. Please pray for her full recovery. Please continue to pray that more people will come forward to sponsor a child for an education.

October 5/6 Please remember in prayer **Pat Wilson**, one of the UK Trustees, and her daughter **Denise** who are travelling to the Philippines this month to visit the different aspects of the Hands of Mercy ministry. Please pray for the Philippine Trustees as they meet on October 21st.

October 7/8 Please remember in prayer our volunteer workers in the communities of **Block 38** – Rommela, Ara, Remy and Mina. **Block 37** – Fina, Beth T and Girlie. Please pray for Sally Escoto and the other staff members who lead and speak at the weekly **Tuesday morning staff meetings**. Please pray too, for the proposed believers **Baptism service** planned to take place during this month.

October 9/10 Sadly, Hands of Mercy continues to experience a **decrease in income** due to the drop in the rate of the peso to the pound. This is having 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.

October 11/12 Recently five mothers underwent tubal ligation (surgical sterilization) at the Friendly Care clinic. Hands of Mercy is offering this operation through the **Surgical Treatment Programme**. Please pray that funds become available so that more women can benefit from this operation in an attempt to help with birth control.

October 13/14 Please remember in prayer all those involved in producing the new **Hands of Mercy brochure**, which is currently at the printers. 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.

October 15/16 Give thanks to God that a gift was given recently to the **Home Improvement Programme** enabling Astrobal and his family to have their very dilapidated home repaired. Sickness, lack of food and medicine make life extremely difficult for many families like Astrobals'. Please pray that Hands of Mercy will have the funds to continue helping needy people who become so desperate when sickness affects them.

October 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.

October 19/20 Please remember in prayer our volunteer workers in the communities of: **Kapalaran** – Myrna, Cristina and Malou. **Agudo** – Wilma, Beth L, Alberta and Jenny. **Hilaga** – Inday, Ema, Maria, Gina and Nenita. Please pray for Nenita, Pina and Alberta and Marieta who are widows, and for single mums Mila, Mina, Ara and Diana.

October 21/22 Please continue to pray for 4 year old Krizzia Laniwan and also for Mariel Diokno, (2 years old) who both need surgery on their club feet. At the moment Krizzia and Mariel's feet are in a plaster cast to help straighten them. Give thanks to God that gifts were given to the **Surgical Treatment Programme** to help pay for Krizzia's hospital treatment.

October 23/24 Please give thanks to God for the members of all the **Small Groups** as they meet regularly week by week. Many members are now attending Church. Please pray for the leaders of the groups as they share God's Word and encourage the new believers. One small group that meets in Block 38 struggles to keep going. Please pray for the leaders that they will have God's wisdom and discernment in the running of this group.

October 25/26 Due to damp, crowded living conditions, many children and adults suffer with asthma and chest infections and rely on a nebulizer to help them breath. Please pray that funds will be given to the **Prescription Medicine Programme** so that those affected can obtain the necessary medicine refill to alleviate their suffering. These refills are expensive to purchase.

October 27/28 Please remember in prayer the **Child Sponsorship Parents monthly meeting** which is held on the last Saturday of each month. Please pray for the Child Sponsorship community co-ordinators as they take turns in running these meetings. Give thanks to God for the way the Hands of Mercy Team are so committed and are taking on more responsibilities. Please pray for **Lourdes and Sevalyn** our volunteer workers in Baguio/LaTrinidad, as they serve the Child Sponsorship Programme beneficiaries with their educational and health needs.

October 29/30 Please give thanks to God for the growth of the church **Youth Group**. Please pray that the right people will come forward to help Sally and Joey run the group and be trained for leadership of this weekly activity. Please pray for Sally and Joey as they listen and talk with the young people. Many of whom have enormous needs. Please pray too, that parents will spend more time with their children and give them the attention they need.

October 31 Please remember in prayer the **Men's groups**, which continue to grow in numbers. Please pray for **Thata Mabalod, Lolong Savandal and Joey Escoto** as they lead the groups. Please also pray for **Sally Escoto, Fina Savandal and Rommela Mabalod** as they lead and oversee the three Mercy Community Churches.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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