

News update and subjects for prayer – SEPT/OCT 2009

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

One of the Compassion Programmes of Hands of Mercy is giving free therapy to children with disabilities through the **Disabled Therapy Programme** – physical and occupational therapy, speech and hearing impairment and pre-vocational skills. We also provide a literacy programme to enhance their skills in reading and writing. This programme is such a blessing to the families who cannot afford to pay a therapist. Children who cannot come to the Hands of Mercy Centre are given Home Care therapy by the Hands of Mercy staff. One mother shared, “..... *I am very grateful to Hands of Mercy for showing love and concern to my child by giving free treatment for his disability*”. We help ten children at the Centre in Mandaluyong and nine children receive regular home care from the dedicated team. Benmark Ilagan who is 16 and Lea Talosig 12 both have cerebral palsy and have been treated by Hands of Mercy for many years. They both need good food and vitamins but their parents are scavengers and there is little money. *Sally Escoto*

This particular **UPDATE** and **SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER** will cover **SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**.

Sept/Oct 1/2 Please remember in prayer our **Disabled Therapy volunteers**: Bing Solsona, Tess Magtabog, Analyn Eduardo, Ara Torrefrance, Remy Lubiano, Mina Salvador, Inday Toribio and Vicky Pikitpikit as they work tirelessly week by week. Please pray that funds will be available through the **Prescription Medicine Programme** to help children like Benmark and Lea. (see above) Many Filipino’s suffer with asthma and chest infections and rely on a nebulizer to help them breathe. Please pray too, that funds will be given so that those affected can obtain the necessary medicine refill to alleviate their suffering.

Sept/Oct 3/4 Give thanks to God that although there were floods, there has been no large damage to the shanty homes in Mandaluyong when typhoons hit the Philippines during August. Please pray that God will protect the people and the buildings from the effects of typhoons, thunderstorms and serious flooding.

Sept/Oct 5/6 Give thanks to God for the **UK Trustees** as they meet throughout the year. Please pray that Ian, Pat, John, Jane, Keith, Jonathan, Bob and Fran will have wisdom and discernment in decisions they take and guidance they give to the ministry of Hands of Mercy. Please also remember in prayer the **Philippine Trustees**, Sally, Rommela, Rey, Mila, Anita, Andrius, Fina and Bing as they meet every two months.

Sept/Oct 7/8 Give thanks to God that **Mark and Michelle Monte** now have a sponsor. Please continue to pray that **Cordio and Elena Dalangpan** and **Sonny and Gerlita Sabado** will also have a sponsor through the **Family Support Programme**. (If you can help these families or one of the many other very poor families in Mandaluyong, please contact the UK office on 01582 416151)

Sept/Oct 9/10 Please continue to pray for **Jo Jo Teves**, the brother of Mila Espanola, who needs an operation on his goitre. With no National Health in the Philippines the operation will cost about £200. Please pray that someone will be able to help this 40 year old man have the operation. **Dante Sedeno** who is 25 years old, is recovering but continues to need medication for his TB and **Michael Zilmar** also 25, needs medication to recover from Hepatitis B. Give thanks to God that some money has been given and please pray that more will become available for their medication and that Jo Jo, Dante and Michael will be healed.

Sept/Oct 11/12 Please remember in prayer our staff workers in the communities of: **Sto. Rosario** – Vicky, Mariette, Diana, Rebecca, and Brenda. **Ginhawa** – Mila, Pina and Tess I. **Kayamunggi** – Anita and Dhea **Block 37** – Fina, Beth and Girlie.

Please continue to pray for our Child Sponsorship Programme **college students**. The college fees for students are much higher than the fees for elementary and high school children. Please pray for the families of: Framer, Ramoneto, Marie, Jackielou, Jennie, Mary Rose L, Trilyn, Matt, Chrissa, Marlon, and Dante, who struggle to provide the extra fees for their children’s education.

Sept/Oct 13/14 Give thanks to God for the manual work Matthew Pate gave to the **Home Improvement Programme** during his August visit. With the money Matthew raised, Carmelita and Filomeno Acuirre who live in Block 37 in Mandaluyong, now have better accommodation and a shanty that doesn’t let in the rain. Many homes do not have proper sanitary facilities, some only have mud floors and because of holes and cracks in materials, the dilapidated homes are often unstable and prone to leaks and flooding. Please pray for Joey Escoto as he leads this programme and for the funds to pay for the needy repairs.

Sept/Oct 15/16 It has been stated that there are 923 million undernourished people in our world. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates 75 million of them are hungry as a direct result of high food prices. Please pray for people in the Philippines who are facing food shortages because of natural disasters, rising food prices, bad government etc., Pray for the Hands of Mercy team who are doing all they can in difficult circumstances to help feed the malnourished and thin children each week through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme.**

Sept/Oct 17/18 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.

Sept/Oct 19/20 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. Each Thursday Sally shares God's Word to the Hands of Mercy staff, who in turn then teach the Word to the members of the Small Groups in the Communities.

Sept/Oct 21/22 Please remember in prayer our Filipina staff workers in the communities of: **Florante Street** - Bing, Analyn, Terie and Margie. **Block 38 and 40** - Remy, Helen, Ara, Mina and Eliza. Many of the Hands of Mercy staff workers have emotional hurts, physical pain, financial needs and often little to eat - they and their families face many hardships each day. Please pray for them and for Nenita, Pina, Alberta, Marieta and Diana who are widows, and for those who are single mums Mila, Mina, and Ara. Give thanks to God that Tess Magtabog and her daughter Christine safely gave birth to a boy and a girl at the end of July.

Sept/Oct 23/24 Kristopher Madrelijos, who is 7 and Glydel Fulgar 14, continue to wish for a sponsor through the **Child Sponsorship Programme.** Please pray for Lourdes Cadatal who oversees the Child Sponsorship Programme in Baguio/La Trinidad. 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) Mary Laurie Laguilles is 7 years old and needs an eye operation to restore her vision. Please pray that funds will be available for Mary Laurie through the **Surgical Treatment Programme.**

Sept/Oct 25/26 On October 22nd **Ian, Carol and Sarah MacDougall** with **David, Jane, Sarah and Grace Alexander** will be travelling to the Philippines to pay a short visit to see the different aspects of the Hands of Mercy ministry. Please pray for them as they prepare for this visit and for the various ministry opportunities they will have with the Hands of Mercy team and other groups.

Sept/Oct 27/28 In the urban poor communities of Mandaluyong there are many people who suffer from the results of tragic events and horrific situations, because of the abuse of alcohol, drugs, gambling etc., Some families known to Hands of Mercy have been deeply affected recently. Please pray that they may know God's peace and strength in their time of sadness and great heartache.

Sept/Oct 29/30 Please remember in prayer the **Youth Leaders of Mercy Community Church.** Give thanks for the young people attending the Church youth ministry on Sundays and please pray for the twenty young people from the St. Rosario and Kayumanggi communities who are now regularly attending Church as well as Small Bible Groups.

October 31 Give thanks to God that a number of people who support Hands of Mercy, have financially helped the compassion work by giving money raised at coffee mornings, tea afternoons, B-B-Q's, running the Marathon, in lieu of birthday/Christmas presents, Church choir concerts, offerings in church at weddings and funerals, and many other ways. Please pray that other friends of Hands of Mercy will be able to help with the financial costs of helping the poor and needy in Mandaluyong, Manila, and Baguio/La Trinidad.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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