

News update and subjects for prayer – SEPTEMBER 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

September 1/2 Give thanks to God for the UK Trustees who will be meeting on the 3rd September. Please pray that they may have wisdom and guidance as they meet to discuss and pray through various matters relating to the ministry in the Philippines.

September 3/4 After waiting many months because of his poor health, **Genesis Carpio** aged seven, has now had his stomach operation. Please pray for his good recovery. Sadly his grandfather, who looked after him, died whilst Genesis was in hospital. Please pray for the family and especially for his grandmother who is now caring for Genesis. Mina Salvador, one of the Hands of Mercy staff, who underwent breast surgery during 2008, has recently been in hospital having had a stroke. Mina is home now, although she is still weak and needs to attend hospital, and will be on medication for the rest of her life. Please pray for Mina and her niece Luz at this difficult time in their lives. Please pray that gifts will be given through the **Surgical Treatment Programme** that hospital and medication costs will be met for children and adults.

September 5/6 Throughout the year, a number of people attending the three Mercy Community Churches, have become Christians, and this Sunday the 5th of September some of them, especially men, will be baptised. Please remember them in your prayers, and also pray for Joey Escoto and Greg Lubiano as they lead this special occasion.

September 7/8 Please continue to pray for the **22 college students in Mandaluyong and the 10 college students in Baguio/LaTrinidad**, who struggle to pay for their college fees, books, projects etc.,. Although they are all sponsored, the sponsorship fee does not cover the costs for these older students, and their parents do not have sufficient income to help their children. Please pray that extra gifts will be given to help the young people so that they can finish their education.

September 9/10 The weather is hot and wet in the Philippines and during this rainy season there have already been typhoons with some parts of the capital flooded. Please pray that God will protect the people and the buildings from the effects of typhoons, thunderstorms and serious flooding. Please pray for the safety of our sponsored children as they travel to and from college, not only from the storms, but from opportunists who try to steal their money and personal items when travelling on jeepney's and buses.

September 11/12 Please continue to pray that Eshmael 16 years, Joanne 12 years, Raniel 8 years, and Jonel 9 years, will be linked with an individual sponsor to enable them to have an education. (If you could help one of these children through the **Child Sponsorship Programme at only £12 a month** - please contact the UK office on 01582 416151) The benefits of having a sponsorship will be felt throughout the family and community of a sponsored child. Sponsors can be such an encouragement to a child through their letters and words of love and kindness, which in turn helps each child to see just how precious they are.

September 13/14 Please pray that the **Philippine Government** will govern with integrity and give justice to the many families in the communities who have desperate needs. Twenty three families in **Block 37** in Mandaluyong, have now received help through Hands of Mercy to rebuild their homes after the fire last year. There are still more families in need of a home, especially in this rainy/typhoon season. Please pray that the local government will honour their earlier promise and give financial help to these desperate people.

September 15/16 High population growth, social and political unrest and natural disasters have played havoc with the economy in the Philippines for many years, causing widespread poverty and unemployment. This affects the lives of thousands of children, many of whom suffer from malnutrition. Hands of Mercy has ten feeding areas and serves over 6,000 specially designed meals each month to seriously underweight children. Please pray that through the regular feedings the health of the children will improve, and that people will give financially through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme** to help buy food for the malnourished children.

September 17/18 Please pray for the Hands of Mercy team who are widows: Pina, Alberta, Nenita, Marietta and Diana, and for those who are single mums: Ara, Mila, Mina and Myrna. Please keep praying for Sally Escoto who has many responsibilities as Director of the compassion ministry, for Mila Espanola as she manages the ministry accounts, and for Lourdes Cadatal as she co-ordinates the work among the Child Sponsorship beneficiaries in Baguio/LaTrinidad with their educational and health needs.

September 19/20 Hands of Mercy helps over forty families have supplementary food, through the **Family Support Programme**.

Each family has a sponsor and this personal contact is an enormous encouragement to those who live in poverty and who need to scavenge daily to provide for their families. Give thanks to God for the sponsors and please pray that more individuals will offer to help a family each month. (If you would like to sponsor a family (£12 a month), please contact the UK office on 01582 416151) We have many needy families who would greatly value having a sponsor and receive supplementary food each month.

September 21/22 Due to damp, crowded living conditions, many children and adults suffer with asthma and chest infections as well as eye infections. Please pray that funds will be given to the **Prescription Medicine Programme** so that those affected can obtain the necessary medication to help and heal them. Please pray for those who are unwell at the moment. Tess and her family, also Mila, Ema, Tina and June. In 2008 we asked prayer for Krizzia Angel Laniwan, 4 years old, who needed surgery on her club feet. Krizzia Angel continues to wear her plaster cast and needs hospital attention. Please pray for her complete healing.

September 23/24 Each week Hands of Mercy staff provide home care therapy to disabled children in different urban poor communities. Please pray for the **Disabled Therapy Programme**, and for the special ministry the staff have in providing care and support to disabled children and their families. Parents who have disabled children have expressed their gratitude for the free therapy Hands of Mercy gives to their children. Give thanks to God that most of the disabled children who have taken part in the literacy programme have now enrolled in a normal school.

September 25/26 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. Please pray that the team 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.

September 27/28 Give thanks for the growth of the **Mercy Community Church Youth Group**. Please pray for Rommela, Matt, and other leaders as they run the youth ministry week by week. Please pray they will have wisdom and discernment as they listen and talk with the young people, many of whom have enormous needs.

September 29/30 During July **Joey Escoto was commissioned as the Pastor at the Plainview Church**. Please pray for Joey with his new responsibility, asking God to give him sensitivity and wisdom as he exercises a pastoral and teaching ministry. Please also pray for Joey as he continues to co-ordinate the **Home Improvement Programme**. Please remember in prayer the members of the **Men's Group** as they reach out in practical ways to help their neighbours.

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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