



News update and subjects for prayer – SEPTEMBER 2011

.....whoever is kind to the needy honours God. Proverbs 14:31

Sept 1/2 More than 7,000 islands make up the Philippines, but the bulk of its fast-growing population lives on just 11 of them. Much of the country is mountainous and prone to earthquakes and eruptions from around twenty active volcanoes. It is often buffeted by typhoons and other storms and during this hot and rainy season there has already been flooding in Mandaluyong. Please pray that God will protect the people from the effects of typhoons, thunderstorms and serious flooding, and help them cope in their poverty when flood waters enter their homes.

Sept 3/4 Many victims of poverty are the children, some of whom are exposed to many evils in society as they are forced to work early at a very young age. We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can change the life of an individual child. By sponsoring a boy or a girl through Hands of Mercy International you will help a child with the skills and opportunities they need to break free from poverty. Those who sponsor a child don't just support them financially, many will pray for their child, exchange letters and develop a relationship with the child and their family. Please pray that more people will come forward to help a child through the **Child Sponsorship Programme**, so that additional children can be sponsored for the 2011-2012 academic year. (Please contact the UK office if you would like to sponsor a child – Tel: 01582 416151) Several sponsored students completed their College and High School studies this April. Please pray that they will find suitable jobs so that they can help with their family's income.

Sept 5/6 With the growth of the compassion ministry, especially in Mandaluyong, 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 next trustees meeting on September the 8th. Please remember in prayer Ian Macdougall Hands of Mercy Chairman, Keith Barter Hands of Mercy Accountant, and Fran Gunn Hands of Mercy Administrator, with all their responsibilities. Please also pray for the **Philippine Trustees** as they meet regularly throughout the year.

Sept 7/8 On Sunday the 7th August, **Block 37 Mercy Community Church** celebrated their 5th Anniversary. After the service the Church Worship team held a small Christian concert which included drama and dance. Please give thanks for the growth of the Church family and please pray for Tata Mabalod as he leads the Church, and for Rey, Angel and Mark the Worship leaders in Block 37 Mandaluyong.

Sept 9/10 After a three year break Hands of Mercy is planning to have another **Conference in October** this year for the Filipino staff who run the seven compassion programmes. These few days away in the countryside are greatly appreciated by the staff where they will enjoy food, fun and the opportunity to hear God's Word and be encouraged by Him. Please continue to pray that God will give wisdom and guidance to those who are preparing for the event.

Sept 11/12 At the "Hands of Mercy" meeting held in St. Thomas' Church during May, the "**Have a Hand**" initiative was introduced by one of the UK trustees, with everyone being encouraged to do something *practical, innovative or unusual* to fill our hands with money that would go towards the compassion ministry of Hands of Mercy. Give thanks that there has been a response to the initiative and please continue to pray that more individuals will respond to this challenge, so we can reach out and help the poor and vulnerable in Mandaluyong.

Sept 13/14 Please continue to pray for the following children who are unwell at this time. For Kurt Advan Solis waiting to have a colostomy operation, Dan Harvey scheduled to have a cleft lip operation and Wilson Guianan in hospital with bone tuberculosis.

Please also remember in your prayers, Ara Torre Franca who has macular degeneration, Mr. Feliciano in hospital with a kidney infection, Beth Tocypao recovering from a goitre operation and Arjay's mother needing a goitre operation. None of these families can afford the hospital expenses and the medication they need. Please pray that gifts will be given to the **Surgical Treatment Programme** so that children and adults can receive the treatment they need.

Sept 15/16 Please give thanks to God that Hands of Mercy has been able to build homes for over forty families in Block 37, and that money has been given recently so that we can provide homes for six more families who lost everything in the 2009 fire. Please continue to pray for Joey Escoto who continues to co-ordinate the **Home Improvement Programme** and works on the construction of the new homes.

Sept 17/18 Please continue to pray for **Sally Escoto** who has many responsibilities as she runs the compassion ministry of Hands of Mercy. Please pray that God will give her patience, wisdom and strength for the many tasks to be dealt with each day in the office as well as out in the community. Please also pray that she will have complete healing after her recent hospital treatment.

Sept 19/20 The 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 and some need to regularly scavenge. Please pray for our Filipino staff in the communities of: **St. Rosario** – Vicky, Rommela, Diana, Marietta, Brenda and Rebecca. **Kayamunggi** – Anita, Dhea, Maria and Joey. **Block 37** - Beth and Girlie. **Block 38 and 40** – Remy, Helen, Ara, Mina and Liza. **Florante Street** – Bing, Analyn and Terie. **Kapalaran** – Tess M, Inday and Ema. **Agudo** – Alberta and Jenny. **Ginhawa** – Mila, Pina and Tess I. **Hilaga** – Mryna, Gina, Margie and Nenita.

Sept 21/22 The World Bank released a study recently which shows that approximately an additional 44 million people from developing countries such as the Philippines, may be driven into poverty due to the continuing rise in basic commodities such as wheat, sugar and oil. According to the report, if the prices continue to rise, many more people will be more vulnerable to malnutrition and then other forms of diseases since they will be forced to consume low cost but less nutritious food. This can be seen already in the country where there is a high incidence of kidney diseases especially among the poor due to the fact that many of them now rely on instant noodles for their main staple meal. (a report in the Manila Times) Please pray that the Philippine Government will use its position of power and have the courage to make choices that benefit those most in need.

Sept 23/24 At this Harvest time, we wrestle with the apparent contradiction of God's abundant provision and the fact that many children die of hunger and malnutrition in the world (UN Food and Agriculture Org) The **Supplementary Feeding Programme** is such a blessing to many hungry children. Please pray that more people will come forward to help financially with the money budgeted as so many children rely on the three meals provided for them each week by Hands of Mercy.

Sept 25/26 Give thanks for the Christian young people at the Mercy Community Church who are living out their faith in a difficult environment, resisting temptation and prepared to share God's love with others. Please pray that they will continue to grow in their Christian faith and be a witness for God in their communities. Give thanks that many people have found faith in Christ and lives have been transformed.

Sept 27/28 Please remember in prayer all the members of the **Mercy Community Church Men's Group** as they reach out in practical ways to help their poor neighbours. Please pray that there will be more mature Christian men witnessing for God in the communities of Mandaluyong. Please continue to pray for Joey Escoto the pastor of the Plainview Church, for Remy and Greg Lubiano who pastor the Block 38 church and for Tata Mabalod leading the church in Block 37.

Sept 29/30 Give thanks and praise to God for His great faithfulness to the Compassion work of Hands of Mercy in the Philippines. Please pray that God will touch the hearts of others and give them the burden to join us in reaching the poor through their prayers, letters and financial support. Although many of us have felt the effects of the recession, the poorest and most vulnerable people are the worst affected

Thank you so much for your ministry in prayer

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