

Hands of Mercy

Quarterly Update and Prayers: June-August 2024

Update from the Philippines

Welcome to this edition of the Hands of Mercy quarterly update and prayers. I was very fortunate to recently visit Hands of Mercy in the Philippines with my husband, Donald and another couple (who also sponsor a child).



It was incredibly humbling to see the living conditions which were hot, crowded and rough. I remember vividly climbing three flights of steps – in the dark because there were no lights – to reach a one-room living space that housed a couple and their four children. They ate, slept and played in just that one room.

We met another mother raising her four sons (pictured above) whose husband had abandoned them because he had a new wife and family. The mother was completely reliant on her brother and the Family Support Programme to provide food for her and her family. What was heartbreaking was that she hadn't been able to pay her rent for the last five months (this was just £28 a month) and was facing eviction because she had no way of paying this. This has now been covered, thank God. But these situations show how much your support makes a difference and the impact it makes – lives would not be changed without you. I am so grateful to God for all your support and prayers.

Thank you and God bless you, Sam
Samantha Graham, Chair, Hands of Mercy International

Menchie Ignacio's story – graduate of the Child Sponsorship Programme

Menchie started to be sponsored when she was six years old. She is now 24, successfully working and supporting the rest of her family. Here she tells what a difference the Child Sponsorship Programme made to her.

Tell us about you and your family.

I am 24 years. I am working as a Quality Assurance and Food Safety Officer in the food industry. My father delivers different kinds of flowers and plants and my mother is housewife. I have five siblings – four sisters and one brother.

How did you first come into contact with Hands of Mercy [HOM]?

HOM helped me to get surgery on my club foot, and after, they helped me to get a sponsor to help with my education.

I am very thankful to Auntie Denise for helping me in my studies until I graduated from college. I am blessed to have HOM for the help I received from them with my club foot and education, because when I was six years old I was not able to walk normally or play outside like other children. My friends always teased and bullied me about my disability because my foot was not normal.



HOM gave me help with surgery for my foot, opportunities to finish my studies, helped me with my spiritual growth and to be a positive person.

What are you most proud of achieving?

I was able to finish college and now I have a decent job. I am happy that I am now able to help my parents and my siblings.

all of these would be made possible, they made me realise that with God nothing is impossible and this always gives me hope for my future.

What difference has Hands of Mercy made to your life?

HOM made me become a stronger person. I would not be the person who I am today if not for them. I never thought

What's your favourite scripture?

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”

Proverbs 16:3

Prayer Topics – June-August 2024



1. **Please pray for health and protection for all the Hands of Mercy team**, especially for Myrna who is struggling with her health and has lost a lot of weight recently.
2. **Praise God for the incredible impact of the Supplementary Feeding Programme** and the very real difference this makes to malnourished children living in the communities. The programme means that children get to have a nutritious meal four days a week (which is often their only meal for that day).
3. **Please pray for Hands of Mercy finances** – we are completely reliant on donations here in order to provide the compassion programmes in the Philippines.
4. **Praise God that money has been raised for Helen, a Hands of Mercy team member, to build a house**, after her home was destroyed in a fire last year. Thank God for this miraculous provision.
5. **Pray that new people will be inspired to support the work of Hands of Mercy and sow into the lives of children and families**. Thank God that 97.5% of the money we raise goes directly to the Philippines for the compassion programmes (we keep our admin costs really low so that we can send as much as possible to the Philippines!)
6. **Thank God for the UK trustees** – Sam (Chair), Keith (Treasurer), David, Sarah, Michael and Denise (newly appointed). Pray that they will lead with wisdom and grace and please pray for new trustees, including someone who can take on the Treasurer role from Keith when he retires in the future.
7. **Pray for Sally Escoto (Director) and her husband Joey as they lead Hands of Mercy**. Ask God to sustain and strengthen them as they juggle so many needs and find a way to support those living in dire poverty in the squatter communities.

Ways to pray: Why not pick a day each month to pray for Hands of Mercy? Or commit one week of each month to pray through the prayer points? Thank you and God bless you.