



Maligayang Pasko (Happy Christmas)!



As we draw near to Christmas in 2025, we wanted to take this moment to say a big THANK YOU for all your support for Hands of Mercy this year. The thanks isn't just from the UK – it's especially from Sally (pictured), our Director in the Philippines. With her customary smile, she says: *"Hands of Mercy would not have been made possible without your help. Thank you very much for embracing Hands of Mercy. Your help demonstrates the love of Jesus amongst the poor. I believe together we can make a difference in the lives of needy families. God bless you all."*

The difference you've made in 2025:

- Through the **Supplementary Feeding Programme**, over 170 children were fed with nutritious meals, four days a week, across eight squatter communities.
- Through the **Child Sponsorship Programme**, over 100 children were sponsored with their education. Jerome, one of the beneficiaries, said: "It has been a bridge for me to fulfil my dreams... Many young people are being helped and given hope and a future."
- Through the **Family Support Programme**, more than 50 families were provided with food each month to help them tackle immediate poverty.



*Supplementary
Feeding Programme*

Christmas card on its way and giving a gift this Christmas



Please consider giving a gift this Christmas to your sponsored child or family – £15-£20 for your child or £20-£25 for your family will make such a difference and give them something special to celebrate! Please send this by **14th December** to help us with transferring the gifts in good time. Thank you!

Your sponsored child or family have also sent you a Christmas card to let you know how much they appreciate *you*! You will either find this enclosed with this letter (or it will have been hand-delivered to you if you live close enough to our administrator!).

As we are about to embark on the adventure of 2026, thank you for journeying with us and we look forward to seeing what this next year holds! We wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sam

Samantha Graham

Chair, Hands of Mercy International, December 2025



Hands of Mercy – Quarterly Update & Prayers: December 2025 – February 2026

Reflection

We're definitely in the winter season and Christmas is now just around the corner! As we draw close to the end of 2025, thank you for journeying with Hands of Mercy this year. We are so grateful for all of you who enable this work to happen – tackling both immediate and long-term poverty in the Philippines.



We had a lovely prayer gathering in October (pictured left). We will be holding our **next prayer gathering on Saturday 21st March 2026** (10:30am – 12pm, St. Thomas' Church, 585a Hitchin Road, Stopsley, Luton, LU2 7UL). Please come if you are able to join us! We will also be live streaming the event on St. Thomas' Facebook page (the livestream will be available on the day, just before 10:30am).

Although it is Christmas – and for many, a busy time of year – may you find moments of pause and rest and know Jesus' love afresh in this season. Thank you too for sustaining and refreshing those in the Philippines through your support and prayers.

God bless you and yours this Christmas,

Sam

Samantha Graham, Chair, Hands of Mercy International

Earthquakes and typhoons in the Philippines

Some of you will have seen the terrible weather that the Philippines has been experiencing recently, including earthquakes and typhoons. A large earthquake hit Cebu, (about 510 miles south of Manila) towards the end of September – dozens of people lost their lives and many families lost their homes. Both Sally and Joey have family there. Only a few weeks' afterwards, Cebu was hit by a typhoon. *(The pictures are of Sally's family sleeping outside following the earthquake and emergency evacuation tents that others have been able to stay in, although there haven't been enough to fully go around).*



Sally said that after the earthquake: *"...a typhoon struck Cebu which was very devastating. I lost contact with my family for two days because they have lost electricity and had no signal. It was very worrying in our part but the least we can do is to pray for them. Thankfully, they are all okay but there were numbers of people died, lost their homes, no food and water. It was so frustrating that all these things happened because of the corruption on the flood control budget. Please pray for the people in Cebu, Joey and my family. Pray also for the chronic corruption in the government. This is a very sad situation."*

Prayer Topics

1st – 7th December: Safety for the Philippines

- Please pray for the devastating situation in the Philippines following the earthquakes and typhoons. Hundreds of people have died across the country and millions of people have been displaced. Please pray for God's protection for the nation.
- Thank God that Sally and Joey were able to travel to Cebu after the earthquake to give out emergency food to families who were struggling (pictured right), after a special donation was given to Hands of Mercy.
- Sally said, *"Praise God for the donations we received to help the most needy people in my mum's community. The rice and groceries they received was such a big help to them to overcome their hunger."*



8th – 14th December: Mercy Community Churches – 25th Anniversary!

- The 25th anniversary event for the Mercy Community Churches took place on 16th November 2025. Thank God for this wonderful time of celebration!
- About 70 young people from the Mercy Community Churches will be attending a youth camp from 28th – 30th December. Pray that this will be an encouraging time that will strengthen them in their faith and prepare them for leadership in the future.
- On a very practical level, please pray that all the arrangements for the buses to transport all the young people go well so that they arrive and return safely!

15th – 21st December: Christmas parties this week!

- Thank God for the Christmas parties taking place this week for the children supported through Hands of Mercy. This is often the only time of the year that the children experience a party. Pray for all the preparations that will go into these and that the children will experience God's love.
- Please pray that there will be good weather when the parties are happening, especially as some of the parties will be held outside when there isn't an indoor space that they can use.
- The Hands of Mercy team and the Ichthus team will also be having their own Christmas party on 21st December – pray for this special time of celebration and for encouragement for the teams.

22nd – 28th December: Christmas

- As we prepare for Christmas celebrations here, please pray for those in the squatter communities who will struggle this Christmas. Pray for miraculous provision.
- Jesus is "Emmanuel, God with us." Thank God for this special time of year where we celebrate Jesus' birth and remember the incredible miracle of Him coming to earth.
- We thank God for all our amazing supporters and for all the donations and support that have made the Christmas celebrations possible.

29th December – 4th January: Happy New Year!

- As we prepare to enter 2026, Sally has asked for prayer for her and the team *"...that we will be guided by the Lord for the whole year of 2026. Pray for the Lord's wisdom"*

as we continue to reach out to our needy brothers and sisters in the community. Please also pray for everyone's health."

- We would love to build our supporter base as we enter 2026 and find more incredible people who have a heart for the Philippines. Pray that God will open many doors so that we can support more families and children to deal with poverty.
- We wish all of our supporters a very Happy New Year! God bless you as we go into 2026 and may this year be a fruitful one in the Lord.

5th January – 11th January: Giving thanks and praying for favour

- Thank God for all the Christmas parties that took place and for the positive impact that this had on the children – for some, it was the highlight of their year!
- Please pray for favour with the landlords who own the Barangka building (where Hands of Mercy is headquartered) and the Ichthus building (where our water filtering business is based). Please pray that there will not be any rent rises as funds are tight.
- Sally and the team are planning to do evangelism in the community. Pray for open ears and favour in the conversations so that people experience God's love.

12th January – 18th January: The Hands of Mercy "engine room"

- Johnlloyd (sponsored under the Child Support Programme) has started to help Sally with the admin work in the office. Pray for wisdom for him as he juggles his time between his studies and his admin responsibilities. Sally said that he is a "great help".
- All those who lead and support the administration are essential to the smooth running of the charity. Thank God for the role that Sally, Mila, Maria and Johnlloyd play in the Philippines and that Denise, our administrator, plays in the UK.
- Ask God to raise up future admin support – both here and in the Philippines – as this is vital for the future. Pray that hearts will be stirred and for the right people to come forward who can help with admin and finance in particular.

19th January – 25th January: New sponsors

- The Child Sponsorship Programme enables children in the squatter communities to gain an education. Children who graduate from school and then college are much more likely to find a decent job and then be able to support their whole family out of poverty. Pray for God to pour out His blessing on all the children enrolled in this programme and for perseverance to complete their studies.
- There are at least 20 children and 10 families who would benefit from being sponsored. Please ask God to raise up new sponsors who can bless a child or family and improve their quality of life (for £20 a month). If you would like to sponsor a child or family – or know someone who would – please let Denise know – info@handsofmercyph.org, 07467 127023. Thank you.

26th January – 1st February: Compassion programmes

- Hands of Mercy runs seven compassion programmes to help tackle hunger, poverty and the need for education in the squatter communities – one of these is the Supplementary Feeding Programme which provides nutritious meals four times a week to some of the poorest children. Without the programme, children would resort to begging or even stealing. Praise God for the positive impact this is having.
- The Prescription Medicine Programme provides vital medicine to people who would not be able to afford this (and face the risk of serious illness or even death as a result). Pray that funds will be available so that we can help people access the medicine and tests that they need.

- Thank God for the other compassion programmes, including the Surgical Treatment Programme, the Disabled Therapy Programme and the Home Improvement Programme. Pray for God's blessing on each of these.

2nd February – 8th February: Icthus

- Icthus is Hands of Mercy's water filtering business. Thank God that we were able to expand in 2025 and that the business is growing.
- Pray for the safety of the drivers who deliver the water to customers – the roads are very congested in Mandaluyong and they have to battle high temperatures every day.
- Pray against contamination and mis-operations in the water production process – water conditions are not always the best in the Philippines. Praise God for all that Joey does in particular to fix and service the filtering machines.

9th February – 15th February: Praying against drugs

- Please continue to pray against the influence of drugs in the squatter communities. The most common drug is shabu, a kind of cocaine – Sally has said that there are many more drug addicts in the communities now. Please pray for God's intervention.
- Pray for the government to tackle drug issues successfully and pray against any corruption that would turn a blind eye to the drug issues that the country faces.
- Pray for the safety of the team as they lead small groups in the squatter communities and sometimes encounter those addicted to drugs.

16th February – 22nd February: Hands of Mercy prayer gathering next month!

- Next month, on Saturday 21st March, 10:30am – 12pm, we will be gathering together to pray for Hands of Mercy (at St. Thomas' Church, 585a Hitchin Road, Stopsley, Luton, LU2 7UL). Please put the date in your diary and come if you can!
- We will also be livestreaming the event on St. Thomas' Facebook page. Pray that supporters will be able to join this way if they can't physically attend.
- Thank God for everyone who prays for Hands of Mercy – the ministry is built on prayer and we would not be able to exist without this!

23rd February – 28th February: God at work

- Thank God for the Mercy Community Churches that have evolved out of Hands of Mercy over the last 25 years. The worship team in the Barangka location is made up of children sponsored through Hands of Mercy. Other sponsored young people are leading Bible studies or doing discipleship training. Praise God for this.
- Please pray for each of the pastors and teachers – Barangka (Sally, Joey, Maria, Ara, Analyn and Bhing), Block 38 (Remy and Greg), Block 37 (Beth, Tess and Robert) and Baguio (Francis and Goodie). Ask God to be their strength and wisdom.
- Pray for the safety of every small group leader as they run a Bible study in the community with the parents of the sponsored children. Thank God for this opportunity to talk about Jesus and help them to know God's love for themselves.

Thank you for praying.

Email: info@handsofmercyph.org HOM office mobile: 07467 127023
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**Restoring hope to some of the poorest families in the Philippines
 through practical help and God's love.**