



## Hands of Mercy – Quarterly Update & Prayers: June – August 2026

### Reflection

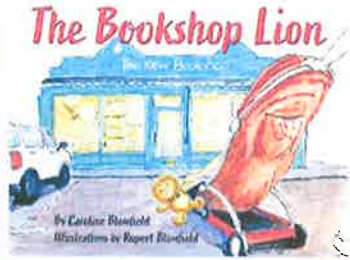
Thank you so much for continuing to pray for Hands of Mercy and for your support. There have been some ups and downs in the last few months which is very typical of life – it's rarely straightforward! The economic situation is still really difficult with many families struggling so the Family Support Programme is even more vital now. The £20 monthly sponsorship doesn't cover as much food as it once did. A growing number of our sponsors have now increased this to £25 to help restore food giving levels to what they were – thank God. We had a lovely time of prayer at the March prayer gathering and an increased number of new people joined! We are hoping to create more local prayer gatherings in the future to make these more accessible as we would love to grow in this area.

It goes without saying that we couldn't change lives in the Philippines without you. Thank you for your support, prayers and kindness.

Every blessing,

*Sam*

*Samantha Graham, Chair, Hands of Mercy International*

	<p>On a different note, if you would like to purchase a copy of 'The Bookshop Lion' (£10.50, including postage), a heartwarming children's story, please contact the office (<a href="mailto:info@handsofmercyph.org">info@handsofmercyph.org</a> and 07467 127023). The book was created by one of our supporters to help Hands of Mercy.</p>
---	--

### Rene Crampatanta – sponsored through the Family Support Programme

*"Hands of Mercy [HOM] is a big help to us, my family. If it were not for HOM I do not know what our life would be like. I cannot work due to my physical situation. I am on oxygen at home because of my lung situation and I have difficulties in breathing.*

*"Praise God that two of my children are being sponsored by their education through HOM's Child Sponsorship Programme. My family and I, are so grateful for the Family Support Programme as it lightens my burden. My wife is looking after a baby of our neighbour just to earn a little for us to survive. We are forever grateful to HOM because a family like ours has given hope to live. May the Lord God bless you all."*



## Prayer Topics

### 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June: Giving thanks

- Hands of Mercy is now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year! Praise God for His faithful provision over these last 29 years and for everyone who has played a part in the HOM story, especially our supporters, team members, volunteers, trustees and leaders.
- The HOM team in the Philippines were able to go out for a rare team day in April. Life in the squatter communities is stressful, with constant need and financial difficulties so a day out is a treat. Thank God for this time of rest and refreshing (some of the team are pictured to the right!)
- Sally and Joey (Director and leader of HOM) were away during May visiting family in Cebu, including Sally's elderly mum. Thank God for this annual break to pause and recharge.



### 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June: Evangelism

- Sally and the team have been doing community evangelism over the last few months – sharing about Jesus' love, praying for people and giving out rice. Praise God for the blessing this has been.
- One mother, who came to an evangelism event, said that the rice she received was an answer to prayer – she didn't know how she was going to feed her children that day. Thank God for this blessing.
- Pray that people's hearts will be reached for Jesus – that they will come to know Him for themselves and experience His transformation in their lives.

### 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June: Family Support Programme

- Thank God for the Family Support Programme and for the food support it provides to c.50 families in the Philippines (c.200+ people). This is a lifeline for families who are struggling to have enough food each month.
- Praise God for the number of sponsors who have been able to increase their sponsorship to £25 a month to help restore food giving levels to what they were.
- Please pray that every family's needs will be covered and ask God to raise up new sponsors who can support a family to navigate through life at this critical time.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June: Florante

- This week, there is just one prayer request for Florante where there is a long-standing land ownership issue involving a group of families in the Florante community (including some sponsored by HOM). The families put a deposit on some land in order to secure housing rights but the land was then sold to another buyer through a technicality. The new buyer hasn't been turning up to the court hearings, delaying the process and increasing costs for the families. There will be a final judgement in the coming months but this is a serious moment as if the buyer 'wins' the case, the families will lose their right to the land and have to pay all his legal costs. Please pray that the families will win the case and for justice to be done.

### 29<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> July: Icthus (HOM's water filtering business)

- The owner of the Icthus premises is selling the building in November meaning that Icthus will have to relocate. The cost of the building is beyond the price of anything



we can afford – about £480k! Please pray that we can find a new building where there is also stability as renting always means a risk that the owner could sell.

- Joey has been working on the logistics involved in moving the water machines (they're not small!) Pray for wisdom, and for all the plans to come together so that the water machines can be safely moved without any damage.
- Please pray for God's peace in this situation – it is stressful for the team with the risk of losing customers and in the worst case scenario, having to close (if we couldn't find new premises). Pray for God's leading and provision over the situation.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> July: Weather conditions

- The Philippines is now in the rainy season (June to October). Temperatures soar, there are sudden heavy downpours and there is an increased risk of typhoons. Please pray for protection for the Philippines.
- Pray for children and families in the squatter communities as they cope with the high temperatures – heat stroke is a real risk during this time.
- The rainy season increases the chance of water-borne diseases and flooding. Please pray for protection, particularly for those in the squatter communities, as they don't have flood protection for their houses.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> July – 19<sup>th</sup> July: HOM team

- Analyn, a long-standing team member, has moved back to the Libmanan Bicol province with her husband, Edgar, as he recently retired (about 224 miles from Manila!). She was instrumental in the team and is greatly missed. However, she has started a feeding programme for 25 children in her local community and she and Edgar are setting up a Mercy Community Church too! Praise God for this!
- Vicky, a former team member, has now come back on board to fill Analyn's role. Thank God for her and pray as she resettles back into HOM – the teams have shifted around a little and she is now on the Agudo team, with Jenny.
- Thank God that the health of a number of team members has improved since the last prayer update including 'Mommy' Liza, Pina and JohnLloyd. Helen's cough has got better but she is now struggling with arthritis – please pray for her.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> July: Mercy Community Churches

- Sally has asked for prayer for the congregation's faithfulness and their spiritual growth as they continue to seek God.
- Please pray for the preachers, that God can use them, including Sally and Joey, to be a channel of blessing in sharing His word.
- The evangelism outreach has touched many hearts. Pray that more people from the squatter communities will engage with the church to help them grow in their relationship with Jesus and find support and encouragement.

#### 27<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August: General conditions and the compassion programmes

- Families in the squatter communities are struggling with the increased costs of food and bills. Sally said that Filipinos who have money are panic buying but those who do not have money are just panicking, not buying! Ask God for His peace and provision at this really challenging time.
- Thank God for each of the HOM compassion programmes, including the Family Support, Child Sponsorship, Supplementary Feeding and Prescription Medicine programmes. Praise God for the very practical difference these are making.

- Ask God to continue to bring His protection to the squatter communities as families survive in poor living conditions, intense heat and the risk of disease. Pray for them to know God's hope and provision despite the challenges they face.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> August: Economy and Government

- The economy is struggling and feeling the impact of the conflict in Iran. Fuel prices remain volatile although encouragingly, these have gone down by a few pesos in recent months. Pray for a long-term turnaround in the economy.
- Pray that all those in power will govern with integrity and pray for a shift in attitudes and hearts so that those in power govern well.
- Sally has said: "Continue to pray for our corrupt officials, from the President down to Barangay officials." Pray for God to raise up godly leaders for the next presidential elections (2028) and for conviction in the meantime for those who are in power.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> August – 16<sup>th</sup> August: Trustee Team (UK)

- Hands of Mercy has been blessed by the faithful service of all our UK trustees over the years: Sam (Chair), Keith (Treasurer), Denise (Administrator), David, Michael and Sarah. Thank God for Keith and Denise who are instrumental in the day-to-day running of the operations here.
- Please pray that God will raise up new trustees who can take on or support key roles in the future, particularly in relation to managing the finances and administration.
- Ask God to fill the UK trustees with wisdom and clarity as they make decisions about the future, seek to raise more funds here and provide support to Sally and Joey.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> August – 23<sup>rd</sup> August: Sally and Joey

- Sally and Joey have asked for prayer: "Pray for our strength as we face a lot of trials, not only personally, but also in the ministry, staff and church. The situation is not very easy for everyone and as the struggle arises, we are always carrying the burden especially when people come for help."
- Thank God that Sally and Joey are generally in good health although Sally has said that they are experiencing some knee pain because of "old age!".
- Sally and Joey have family in Cebu (about 500 miles from Manila). Cebu was hit by a terrible earthquake last year and experienced another earthquake of about 5.4 intensity recently. Pray for their safety and the safety of all the families in Cebu.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> August – 31<sup>st</sup> August: Looking ahead

- Please pray for Ara, a long-standing team member, who needs to have dialysis due to her kidneys not working properly. Pray for God's provision and for healing.
- We rent the Barangka building for the HOM office. Pray for long-term stability and for favour with the owner – that we can either rent this long-term or buy the building at an affordable rate if it ever goes on the market.
- Pray for God's leading, wisdom and direction as we move forward and shape Hands of Mercy's focus over the next 10 years.

Thank you for praying.