

Hands of Mercy

Quarterly Update & Prayers: September – November 2025

Reflection

It's incredible to think that we are approaching September already! Thank you for praying for Hands of Mercy. The elections have taken place now which has brought in new officials and mayors across the country (the presidential elections will be in the next few years). Please continue to pray for the government and that those elected will act wisely and justly, for the good of *all* the people in the Philippines.

We've highlighted more about what life is like in the squatter communities in this quarterly update. Drugs sadly play a big part in some parts of the communities and prayer is needed to see the impact of this overturned. Thank God that we serve a BIG God who is faithful.

We would love for you to join us on Saturday 11th October 2025 (10:30am – 12pm) for prayers for Hands of Mercy. We will be gathering at St. Thomas' Church (585A Hitchin Road, Stopsley, Luton, LU2 7UL) for an hour of prayer, followed by fellowship over hot chocolate (or a tea/coffee). Hopefully see you there!

God bless you as we enter into this autumn season. Thank you for your prayers and support.

With love in Jesus,

Sam

Samantha Graham, Chair, Hands of Mercy International

Voices from the Philippines

"The **Child Sponsorship Programme** has helped me a lot in my studies since I was in elementary school and until my college now. It has been a bridge for me to fulfil my dreams little by little. That's why I am grateful for this programme of Hands of Mercy because many young people are being helped and given the hope and a future." [Jerome](#)



"The Hands of Mercy **Family Support Programme** is giving us hope. It is tool for us in knowing Christ as our Lord and Saviour. With the help we are receiving every 15th and 30th of each month, my husband and I are so grateful, especially that life is so hard now in the Philippines. We cannot stop thanking the Lord for using our sponsor to bless us. Thank you to all the people behind this programme. God bless you all." [Ronalyn](#)

Prayer Topics



1st – 7th September: Answered prayer!

- Thank God for answered prayer – there have been no buyers for the Barangka office where Hands of Mercy has its headquarters!
- Praise God that the repairs being done to the Block 37 office are finally having an impact and helping to protect the building from rain and floodwater.
- Thank God that Ara, one of the team members, is receiving increased financial support from a sponsor for her medication. This is helping her to manage an ongoing kidney issue and her health has stabilised a bit further.

8th – 14th September: Prayer and hot chocolate event – supporters gathering

- On Saturday 11th October 2025, between 10:30am and 12pm, Hands of Mercy is having a 'prayer and hot chocolate' gathering at St. Thomas' Church, Stopsley, Luton, LU2 7UL. We would love for you to join us. No need to RSVP – just come and pray for an hour, followed by fellowship over hot chocolate (or a tea/coffee)!
- "Prayer changes things." Praise God that prayer changes even the hardest and most intractable situations. Thank God that prayer has sustained and kept Hands of Mercy throughout the last 28 years.
- Ask God to move powerfully through Hands of Mercy to bring about His light, hope and provision to those living in poverty.

15th – 21st September: Update on the elections

- New officials and mayors have now been elected across the country. Please pray for "...all who are in authority..." (2 Timothy 2:2) that they will govern with justice and mercy.
- Please continue to pray against corruption. Millions of pesos gets allocated to initiatives like flood barrier improvement projects but the money disappears and floods are still an issue, especially in the squatter communities.
- Pray that the new Mayor of Manila (who was previously in office two terms ago) will help Hands of Mercy to resolve an ongoing land ownership issue in Florante. This is so that the families there can live in peace and rightfully own the land.

22nd – 28th September: Weather

- Weather forecasters have predicted that there will be 15 more typhoons affecting the Philippines until December. Please pray for protection.
- There has been a spike in leptospirosis recently (a blood infection caused by infected animal urine) which has been spreading through the floodwater. The Prescription Medicine Programme has helped some people with medication to treat this as it can be life-threatening. Thank God for this and pray for more funds.
- The typhoons and flooding have increased food prices as some crops have been destroyed. Pray for God's provision as price increases affects the poorest the most.

29th September – 5th October: The squatter communities

- People from the provinces (countryside) often flock to towns and cities hoping for a better quality of life. Many of them end up in the squatter communities, where thousands of people are packed into ramshackle, ill-constructed and unsafe dwellings, made out of any materials that people can find. Fires and floods are a constant risk and can destroy homes in minutes.



- The squatter communities have little sanitation and few homes have running water. Electricity is often sourced through tapping main electricity lines which leads to circuits being overloaded and is a fire risk.
- Very few people in the squatter communities have any security of tenure and risk the constant threat of eviction with nowhere else to go.
- Pray for God's intervention in all of the squatter communities and that a long-term solution can be found so that people can live safely.

6th October – 12th October: Prayer gathering this week!

- Supporters will be gathering to pray together to pray for Hands of Mercy this week, Saturday 11th October, 10:30am – 12pm (St. Thomas' Church, Stopsley, Luton, LU2 7UL). Please pray that people will be stirred and encouraged as they attend.
- Praise God that "...where two or three are gathered..." Jesus is in the midst and thank God that He is a faithful Father who hears our prayers.
- Pray that God's kingdom will come through the work of Hands of Mercy and that people's lives will be transformed – both in the Philippines and in the UK.

13th October – 19th October: Hands of Mercy team

- The Hands of Mercy team, plus Sally (director) and Joey (senior pastor), face countless requests for help from people in the communities. Pray for encouragement and strength as they seek to meet ongoing needs.
- Thank God that most of the team are in relatively good health – pray that this will continue and that they will be strengthened in soul, body and spirit.
- Some of the team members are getting older. Please pray for them as they navigate this changing season of life, whilst still working for Hands of Mercy.

20th October – 26th October: Scavenging

- People from the communities who scavenge spend hours in the blazing sun each day, trying to find recyclable materials (such as plastic, metal and cardboard) that they can sell for just 100-200 pesos a day (about £1.30-£2.60). Please pray for their protection – the "work" is grim.
- The money that they earn is barely enough to buy food for one person, let alone a family of 5-6. Food prices have also gone up whereas the price of selling scavenged items has gone down. Please pray for provision.
- Sally knows scavengers who are as young as 9 and as old as 75. Pray that there will be a route out of scavenging for all those living in this way.

27th October – 2nd November: Drugs

- Drugs are rampant in some parts of the squatter communities. Drug lords will use poor people to sell drugs as it is very tempting for those living in poverty to get involved because the money is always there. Pray against this evil.
- Children are also often used to be drug couriers because they can more easily get away with selling drugs and face fewer penalties. One 13 year-old sexually assaulted a 9-year old under the influence of drugs. Please pray for God's mercy and change.
- Many families have been broken apart because of drugs, with addiction and domestic abuse happening as a result. Pray that all those caught in addictions in the squatter communities will experience God's truth, deliverance and restoration.

3rd November – 9th November: Work struggles

- “Contractualisation” is a common practice in the Philippines – where employers provide short-term contracts (rather than permanent roles) so that they don’t have to pay employee benefits. Pray that there will be better law-making in the senate to fight against contractualisation.
- Jeepneys (descendants of American military jeeps left in the Philippines after WW2) offer a low-cost form of transport. Jeepney drivers have been striking following the government’s attempt to move to e-jeepneys as the loans to cover the cost of these is as high as what a driver can earn. Pray for a long-term resolution to this issue as many people who drive jeepneys live in poverty.
- Pray that there will be greater job opportunities in the Philippines so that those living in poverty can find sustainable, well-paid work.

10th November – 16th November: Mercy Community Churches – 25th anniversary celebration!

- On 16th November 2025, the Association of Mercy Community Churches will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. Please pray for the preparations, for the venue and for the resources to bring everything together. Praise God for 25 years of serving Him and His people.
- Thank God for every opportunity He has given to share His Word through the Mercy Community Church and for the growing numbers of people who have accepted Him as Lord and Saviour.
- Praise God that there has particularly been an increase in the number of young people giving their lives to Jesus!

17th November – 23rd November: Sally and Joey

- Please pray for renewed strength for Sally and Joey (director and senior pastor) as they cope with all the activities required to run Hands of Mercy.
- Pray that they will continue to be encouraged and built up in the Lord and that their faithful witness will also lead others to Him.
- Please pray for protection for Sally, Joey and all the team, as they go around the communities each day. Ask God to protect their health in particular.

24th November – 30th November: The future

- Pray that God will prepare leaders who will come on board to lead Hands of Mercy forwards and take over the mantle from Sally and Joey at the right time in the future.
- Thank God for the UK trustees and the different roles that they play, particularly for Keith as our treasurer and Denise as our administrator. Ask God to raise up new people who can also take on these important roles in the future.
- Thank God that He continues to lead Hands of Mercy and that we can trust in Him to “direct our path and make our paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Thank you for praying.

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through practical help and God’s love**