



Registered association for the promotion
of medical care and social support in
Northern Samar, Philippines

Bugko, April 2014

Dear members, friends and supporters of Mabuhay!

On January 3, 2014, our annual General Meeting was held. Sr. Veronica and I could be back again and this time the room in Haus Elisabeth was almost too small, so many had come to hear about the project and in particular on update of Typhoon Haiyan. We experienced it directly and were able to give first-hand information. Many photos underlined the disaster which left the Philippines, particularly the islands of Samar and Leyte helpless. The re- construction will take a long time to be completed and we once again thank everyone who has supported us in this work and still do it.



Back in Bugko on January 8, we had stormy weather. It started with lots of rain, due to a low pressure area, which was just revolving over Samar. Strong winds, heavy rain and again the electricity was cut off as a result. Therefore, the communication was again very limited earlier this year. Many areas were flooded and the newly planted rice floated and were totally destroyed.



On January 9, we went directly to St. Rita, Samar, to bring relief supplies. We did this in conjunction with IIP (International Initiative for Philippines). The region around St. Rita is also affected by Typhoon Haiyan, but from the international aid still not much is seen. We brought cooking pots and hygiene articles. I think the pictures show very clearly how much is left to do and how little international aid has also been used.



On January 16, we did our first Medical / Dental Mission of this year. As always, we accommodated many patients at once. Our volunteers are well-trained and work as a team and coordinate from patient registration to giving instructions on how to take the medications. Often the space is limited and the circumstances more than are far beyond imagining.



On February 5, Max R. from Bonn came to us. He is an operational technician assistant by profession and works in an operating room in Bonn. In the clinic, he was confronted with various works. These included measuring of blood pressure, applying bandages, intramuscular injections and consultation with the patients. He stayed until 24 February.



On February 11, the World Day of the Sick, our so-called Surgical mission was again held in conjunction with ISM (International Surgical Mission). We performed outpatient operations in Mabuhay clinic. Dr. Paul R., the leader of the group, came himself and did in one day 35 surgeries. Our patients have been waiting for him since they can not afford the expenses, even for these small operations. Patients with major surgery, such as inguinal hernias, breast tumors,

thyroid enlargement, uterine enlargements, etc., were examined on 4 February in Biri district hospital, one of the several islands in Samar. This mission is free for the patients and we listed them already thru the whole year. They were operated and supplied with all the needed medications. For many years we have been working together with ISM and always have many patients who benefit from these free operations. Our volunteers were always around ready to assist in many ways.



On February 13, Dra. Eden P. from Las Vegas USA offered to conduct consultations here in the clinic. She is from Samar but lives in the U.S. and was actually here for a visit. From her first day onwards our outpatient clinic was full of patients. Since we do not have a regular doctor here at the moment, it was a great happiness to get professional help on a voluntary basis. For her, it was easy to communicate with the patient, because she speaks the local dialect, Waray-Waray.



As the "holiday season" of Dra. P. ended, on March 6, my parents came to us. Also they did not come for holiday, but to take care of the patients. Since their last visit here much happened in the clinic and they were amazed. Since we have a rapidly increasing number of patients with disorders of the musculoskeletal system and with pain, the orthopedic doctor was expected for a long time. The patients were queuing. Large and small patients were in good hands with the two. They are a

good team so we could treat every day, many patients by the medical specialist. Overall, in the short time nearly 1,000 patients came to us.



One of the highlights was a Medical Mission in Las Navas, a town in Northern Samar about 60km away from us. In just one day my parents had 205 patients with orthopedic diseases. We just worked on the village square under the simplest conditions. The spectators was not in shortage throughout the day and even the rain did not deter the patients to come to us. Before the day was over, we were already asked when the German doctor will return.



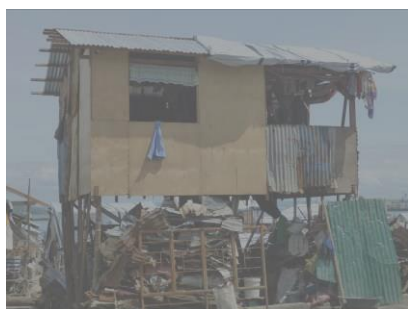
Before the end of my report I would like to give a little glimps on the latest development about Typhoon Haiyan, who hit parts of Samar and devastated most of Leyte so hard. In Bugko we initially supplied rice, foods and other relief

assistance to those families who were much affected. On February 6, we set up a kind of "soup kitchen" in front of the clinic and gave hundreds of residents a Filipino noodle dish called (pansit).



All the nipa huts along the coastline in Bugko were destroyed by the typhoon and were repaired immediately after they got native materials from us. Also our Medical Missions helped the people very much at the early stage.

In Tacloban, Leyte, the roads are cleared and the many dead bodies that previously were still lying on the roadside, were buried in mass graves. There are groceries open and also some shops are opened again. The state has built so-called emergency shelters. Some restaurants, gasoline stations, schools and hospitals are opened again. The power poles are back. Superficially, it all sounds positive, but when you look at it closer, this once thriving city is in ruins and this applies not only to the houses. There are still over 1500 missing persons, foods are greatly overpriced, the emergency shelters are sub-standard. Unemployment is high and people see no future. There is still no constant power supply, and many houses are still not even connected to the power supply. Many Taclobanons build their huts on the destroyed old ones and use the materials from the rubble. Also, they do not heed to the 40Meters No-Built Zone Policy from the sea, which was set by the government. Skilled workers are leaving the city and work in Manila in non-professional fields, just to have work. Where is the big international aid gone? It seems that many donations from all around the world are still in Manila. In March, a large part of the relief supplies will be reduced. This is terrible as many people in Tacloban depend on them, as they can not afford expensive food. The second phase of our assistance aimed at a long-term assistance to give people a new hope and an income. Therefore, we choose to build boats. This gives people jobs and subsequently by fishing they can have small income from which they can feed their families. At the beginning of the school year we will distribute educational materials, as people have really lost everything. Sad to say but it seems our small initiatives are much faster effective than big international help. It has much to do with bureaucracy. So I thank you again very much for the many large and small donations. We would not have gone through this difficult time without your support and we could not have passed out this much help to those affected. It's still a long way, but I think our initiatives really brought the necessary help and we will continue to do so as long as we have the means to do it. Here are a few recent pictures :



For all of you here and your generous help, in many ways, we thank you so very much. It is so clear to us again and again that our concern in this part of the world is also yours. And so I greet you in a warm connectedness from Bugko
Yours

Sabine Korth

Salamat (Thank you) from Bugko!

Donation:

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