



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

Bugko, August 2009

Dear members, dear friends, and supporters of Mabuhay!

As in the previous year, I would like to share with you a different perspective on our work here. This year, Ms. Margret Meyer from Bonn and Ms. Anni Eske from Berlin visited us and spent three intensive weeks with us in Bugko. Here is their report:

Travel Report "Mabuhay-Philippines"

March 11 - April 1, 2009

Our three-week trip began on March 11, 2009. My sister Anni from Berlin and I met at Schiphol/Amsterdam. From there, we flew about 16 hours to Manila. We were delighted to be welcomed in this city of 20,000,000 people by Sabine and Sister Veronica. During a short city tour to the Hotel Pope Pius VI, we were almost overwhelmed by the sweltering heat, the traffic, and the many people with their immense friendliness.

After settling in, we explored markets, churches, and a dental clinic. Our impressions were enormous, and we wondered how so much poverty and wealth could coexist. After a rather wet boat trip to Taal Volcano, we visited the Manila Philharmonic Hall in the evening to end the evening peacefully with Beethoven's symphonies.





After two days in Manila, we flew about 1.5 hours in a small propeller plane to the island of Samar to reach our destination, Bugko. The island's runway serves as a market street during the day, where farmers sell fruit, vegetables, and rice. It's probably almost unique in the world.

From the airport, we continued about 30 km to Bugko, to Sabine and Sister Veronica's work, the Mabuhay-St. Francis of Assisi Outpatient Clinic. There, we were welcomed by ten women (volunteers) with flower wreaths, singing, a buffet, and nothing but friendly faces, making us feel right at home. We were allowed to stay in Sabine and Sister Veronica's room for three weeks, as they had moved to the attic.

We spent some time on the lower floor with their facilities: outpatient clinic, dental unit, and treatment rooms. Everything is well organized, and many patients—both young and old—were seen quickly. There was plenty to do.



Sabine's nutrition program gave us the opportunity to see into the families' huts. Many children are malnourished and are given only a bowl of rice a day as a matter of course. Vitamins and other nutritional resources are lacking everywhere. Therefore, this program is a great help to these poor families.



We also visited the school where Sabine and Sr. Veronica work, the university, and the hospital in Catarman. The conditions of the medical facilities were appalling, and almost all of them were in need of renovation. The sanitary facilities were deplorable and dated back to another era. Unthinkable in Europe! There is so much to do.

We were also able to witness the construction of the new training and nutrition center. There, people will learn, among other things, how to eat

properly with minimal resources. This allowed us to see for ourselves that our donations of money and goods are benefiting the people, the health care system, and the nutrition program in Bugko.

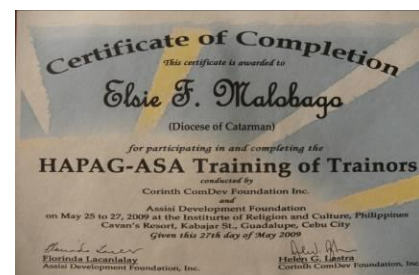
We believe our help is a drop in the ocean, but it is worthwhile to support Sabine's project with our contributions so that people can learn how to help themselves.



Since April 27, we've had new team members. Shayne de Guia, a newly qualified nurse from Bugko, is volunteering with us to learn more and gain practical experience. She's 23 years old and has been a great help to us even after just a short time. She completed her training in Manila.



From May 27-29, Elsie Malobago, one of our volunteers, was able to participate in a seminar in Cebu on Hapag-Asa (Table of Hope). She was one of the representatives of the Diocese of Catarman and presented our feeding program. She brought back many new experiences, which she shared with the other volunteers here and which we can incorporate into our program.



I actually wanted to focus this newsletter on our new training and nutrition center. The building is finished, but not yet fully furnished. Therefore, I'm postponing the detailed description until my December letter and hope you understand.

At this point, I'd like to express my sincere thanks once again to everyone who supports us in so many ways, both financially and materially. I also keep hearing from our association board that acquaintances and friends are

foregoing personal gifts for special occasions in life and instead supporting us here so that we can help the poor here in Bugko and the surrounding area. On behalf of everyone who benefits, I say a heartfelt thank you—Salamat—as it is called in the local language.

Before I end my letter, I'd like to share some more news with you. The German Dentists' Aid Organization, under the direction of Dr. Winter, has provided us with a transport vehicle. It can easily be converted into an ambulance and was specially modified in Manila for this purpose. It has a stretcher, oxygen, and a siren. We can also use it when we travel with our volunteers to medical/dental missions. The vehicle offers plenty of space, allowing us to easily transport supplies, medications, and our volunteers to the various locations in Northern Samar. The conversion in Manila was sponsored by a Philippine company that specializes in vehicle conversions. It's nice that we're also receiving support for our work from the local population.



With best wishes for a wonderful summer, Yours,

Sabine Korth

Salamat (thank you) again from Bugko!

Sabine Korth

Spendenkonto:
Sparda Bank West eG
BLZ 370 60590
Konto-Nr.. 3651274
IBAN : 20 3706 0590 0003 6512 74
BIC : GENODED 1SPK

Mabuhay – Hilfe zum Leben e.V.
Geschäftsstelle:
Kaiserstrasse 11
53332 Bornheim
www.mabuhay-ev.de

Amtsgericht Bonn
VR 8364