



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

Bugko, August 2010

Dear members, dear friends, and supporters of Mabuhay!

April and May were marked by the election campaign in the Philippines.



On May 10, Benigno "Nonoy" Aquino III was elected president, ushering in a new era in a country so plagued by corruption, poverty, and overpopulation. It remains to be seen whether he can meet the demands placed on him. This was the first time an electronic election was held here. Unfortunately, vote buying is still taking place on a massive scale. It's illegal, but many people here are so poor that they'd rather be bought than vote independently.



We on our side also benefited from the election propaganda. We received several boxes of medication as a gift from a political party via the local mayor. The contents were worth a good €250, which is quite remarkable, considering these "free" medications are usually sold anyway. We were able to put them to good use for our patients and even give them away for free.



The rice harvest in our area was good this year because we weren't affected by severe drought like many parts of the country. All areas and even the streets were used to dry the rice, even at the risk of vehicles simply driving over the crop, as can be seen in the picture to the right.



Unfortunately, I also have to share some very sad news with you. On May 6th, one of our volunteers died suddenly. Romeo Aguilando, nicknamed "Popoe," was only 35 years old. His death from sudden cardiac arrest shocked us all and deeply saddened us. His youngest daughter was just 5 days old when he died. He stood by us here at our clinic from the very beginning, supporting us with his many talents. Everyone who met him here knows what a loss he is to our team and our community. We will miss him deeply.



Pentecost is celebrated every year in the diocese as a grand family celebration. Families from all parishes, no matter how far apart, come together. Especially young people. One parish hosts the celebration. This takes place annually, and the cross is passed on as a ceremony. Similar to the World Youth Day cross, which is passed on. This time the theme was family: that prays, bears witness, and helps. Then there's an opportunity for confession, and at 2:30 a.m., there's a service. With sunrise, around 5 a.m., people return home. The start is the day before at 5 p.m. So it's a full program. The bishop has deployed us as a first aid team, as was the case on election day, May 10th. He always calls us because we're the only ones in the area with a fully equipped ambulance. Thanks to the German Dental Aid

Organization (HDZ)! We had a few patients, but nothing serious. Thank God! This year there were over 3,500 participants.



On May 31st, we traveled with some of our volunteers to Calbayog for the inauguration of a new spiral CT and a new X-ray machine at OLPHI (Our Lady of Portiuncula Hospital, Inc.). It was our first trip of this kind, and the volunteers were very interested in this new technology. This CT is the only one within several hundred kilometers, so it was truly an event to see such a machine up close. We also received a tour of this hospital, which is very well-equipped and modern by Philippine standards.



Since June 1st, we have had new male support on the ward. Dennis and Domingo will be helpful here and will also support us in our clinical programs. Dennis has been with us for some time as a volunteer. Domingo comes from Bugko and both now live with us permanently. We are grateful for their help.



Dennis



Domingo

Patrick is doing well. His diabetes is well controlled, and on June 5th, we took him and his brother Erik (10 years old) to the priests from Italy. I mentioned this at our annual general meeting. Both have been attending elementary school since June 15th. Erik is taking over insulin injections and helping Patrick wherever necessary.



On June 21, Katharina S. joined us for an internship. She had just graduated from high school and wanted to be useful on our ward and observe our programs.



Thanks to the support of the German Dental Aid Organization (HDZ), we are able to continue our newly integrated fluoride-based prophylaxis program. Our trained volunteers are actively involved in this effort, providing education, examinations, and prophylaxis for the children with great dedication. Our target area is the Day Care Center, so that the youngest children learn to take good care of their teeth from the very beginning.



We had a lot of patients in July. The rainy season had begun, and most of them came with fever, colds, and diarrhea. For the first time, we reached a patient count of over 1,000 in the clinic here. This shows how well our ward is being accepted, but also that the population's awareness of illness and health is constantly growing, and that is one of our main tasks here: to convey that health is also a value in life.

With best wishes for a wonderful summer, I am yours,

Sabine Korth

Once again, Salamat (thank you) from Bugko!

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