



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

Bugko, August 2017

Dear members, dear friends, and supporters of Mabuhay!

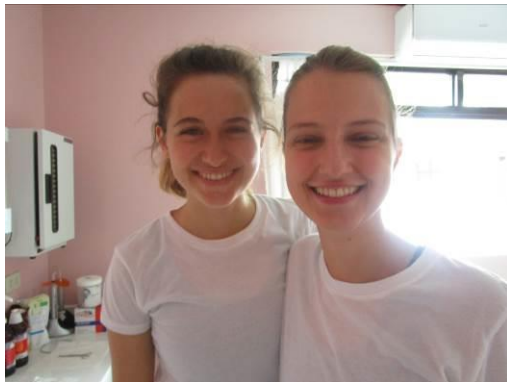
On April 17, my parents arrived from Bonn to Bugko. My father, an orthopedic surgeon, and my mother, his assistant, dedicated three weeks to treating patients. This year, we've seen an increasing number of orthopedic patients. Patients flocked to our clinic early in the morning. Even patients from Tacloban wanted treatment, almost 300 km from Bugko. X-rays were taken, diagnostic reports were taken, injections and dressings were administered, and even outpatient surgeries were performed. Unfortunately, we also saw many very ill patients who had to be referred to medical facilities in Manila.

Long waits weren't a problem as long as we could see the "healer" from Germany, who performed true miracles this year. It was clear once again that Dr. Korth and his wife are a well-established team, working together for years, and we were able to treat 100 patients every day.





On May 10th, two young dentists, Ms. Vera B. from the University of Jena and Ms. Katharina L. from the University Hospital of Homburg, came to us to take care of patients with various dental problems.



On May 23rd, fighting began in Marawi, Mindanao, against the Maute and IS terrorists. The army underestimated the rebels' strength and weapons, and so the fighting continues. Philippine President Duterte transferred command of the war to the army in order to deprive the terrorists of all their bases here in the Philippines. Many people fled, and many lost their lives in the fight. It was the heaviest fighting in decades, and there were even air strikes. Many of you have asked if we are safe here and how the situation in Samar should be assessed. We are always touched by how you all think of us and are concerned for our well-being. Thank God it has remained calm here, and we have not noticed any unrest.



On July 6, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck Leyte, our neighboring island. This resulted in two weeks of power outages. Fortunately, our generator held up, allowing the clinic to continue operating at full capacity. Landslides resulted, and work on the power lines is in full swing, so we still suffer from regular, almost daily power outages to this day. The Philippines is repeatedly struck by natural disasters. Often, these are forecast storms of varying intensity. Earthquakes come unexpectedly, and we experience landslides here throughout the year. Fortunately, most of them are without major consequences. The earthquake in Leyte was strong, hence the damage.



On July 12, Sister Veronica and I participated in a training course on emergency response. The course focused on providing appropriate assistance in the event of typhoons, earthquakes, landslides, floods, and medical emergencies, and on developing an emergency response plan. The course was organized by the diocese, so many priests and religious participated.



On July 25, the DOH (Department of Health), the local health authority, came to inspect our laboratory. The DOH visits annually to review quality, staff, standards, and documentation. To our great delight, no issues were raised, and we were permitted to continue operating the laboratory.

From July 30 to August 23, Ms. Diep T., a dental student from the University of Freiburg, and Ms. Karoline K., a medical student from the University of Munich, stayed with us. Both quickly settled in and helped wherever needed. Ms. K. performed excellent clinical examinations on patients, and Ms. T. took over the dental clinic and supervised the dental prophylaxis program. Patients of all ages were in good hands.



We were able to inaugurate two major projects on August 9th. Our herbarium was funded by the Rotary Clubs of Bornheim, Brühl, and Siegburg, and the senior day care center/evacuation hall was funded by Caritas Germany. The herbarium was completed last year, but could only be officially inaugurated now because the typhoon destroyed the farm and the newly planted medicinal plants last year. At the beginning of the year, bad weather made drying the plants impossible, and we had to postpone this first step toward producing medicinal plants.



The new senior day care center was completed on July 31st. Caritas Germany financed both the building and the entire interior furnishings. The senior day care center serves a dual purpose and can also be used as an evacuation hall in emergencies such as typhoons, earthquakes, and severe storms. The Bishop of Catarman, Emmanuel C. Trance, D.D., the representative of Caritas Germany, Crizelle B., the seniors (295 are registered in Bugko), and numerous guests attended the inauguration. The seniors in particular were bubbling with joy, as there has never been a senior day care center here before. An events calendar is currently being drawn up to coordinate the various activities. The seniors have also already put forward suggestions on how the

building can be supported with its running costs. It was a day full of joy and gratitude, and there was dancing until late into the night.



As you can see from the report, we've had many patients, visitors, and events here at the Mabuhay Clinic over the past few months. I wish you all a wonderful rest of the summer.

Yours,

Sabine Korth

Donation:
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