



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

Bugko, August 2019

Dear members, dear friends, and supporters of Mabuhay!

On April 23, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck our island. Thankfully, we suffered no damage. There was some building damage in the surrounding area, but despite the strong tremor, it was limited.

On April 26, Lena S. and Magdalena G., both from the University of Munich, came to us as "newly qualified" dentists. Their journey was very arduous and long, as the airport in Clark was so badly damaged by the earthquake that it was temporarily closed. They ultimately traveled by land, which meant a journey of a good 24 hours. After some rest, they began their work at the dental clinic. They saw many patients every day and were somewhat saddened that they couldn't save more teeth. Fillings were often no longer possible due to the severity of the cavities.



Melinda R. also came to visit us on April 29th. So we now have three young dentists with a lot of energy. Ms. R. was accompanied for two days by her friend Christoph R., a medical student. Both are from the University of Heidelberg. Mr. R. plans to come to us after his studies and wanted to get his bearings first. Ms. R. immediately changed into her work clothes and went to the dental clinic. She stayed with us until the end of May and was fortunately able to save a few teeth. Tooth preservation is still our goal and so we were happy to have so many good young dentists in our clinic. The number of patients in the dental clinic rose steadily after word got around that the Mabuhay Clinic offered such good and qualified dental care. In addition to the treatments, many patients also came for preventative care.



On May 13, national and regional elections were held again. Candidates were canvassed everywhere. As I've seen in previous elections, votes were sold again, making the election vulnerable to manipulation. Sister Veronica and I worked all day as election officials, directing voters to their polling stations.



On June 16th, we set off for Bonn to see my parents and to inform our friends and donors about the situation there. Among other things, we visited Aesculap AG, a company internationally known for its medical products and medical technology. The company's headquarters are in Tuttlingen. Aesculap AG has been supporting us with instruments for years, and we recently received a new coagulation device donated to us, which is needed to stop bleeding in the operating room. This device now enables us to perform major procedures on an outpatient basis. We were greeted by Ms. Katja Zepf, Executive Assistant and Head of the Giving Committee, Mr. Richard Pauli, Head of Finance and Accounting, and Mr. Anton Keller, Head of the Development Department. During our visit to Aesculap AG, we received a detailed introduction to the history of hemostasis, as well as a practical introduction to the device's operation.

Mr. Keller took great care and time to explain the device and let us try out the various functions. Afterwards, we were given a tour of the showroom, featuring the company's complete product range and the latest developments in general surgery, orthopedics, and specialized disciplines, including 3D microsurgery.



Initiated by the Rotary Club of Bornheim and its then Governor, Prof. Dr. B., we received a donation of over 1,400 frames from Herrmann Optik in Heimerzheim. Mr. H. and his son spent a long time collecting, cleaning, and sorting frames until we had this large number. We could hardly transport them - there were so many. They will benefit our patients in Bugko, as patients with vision problems come to us every day. Often we can help patients with just a pair of glasses, but sometimes they require cataract surgery, as Dr. Stefan performed several times in February.



On July 18, Father Robert Jauch, OFM (Franciscan) from Düsseldorf traveled with us to Bugko. He wanted to get to know our station, as he had heard a lot about it. He gained insight into our various activities, interacted with locals, saw a bit of the countryside, and was able to visit his Franciscan brothers in Calbayog, who run a large school and hospital there. He celebrated Holy Mass with us every day, and our volunteers often participated as well.



As you can see, it's never boring here. New guests are constantly coming to visit us, especially from the dental field. It would be great if more medical professionals would make their way here in the future, as our patient numbers aren't decreasing and help is needed. A heartfelt SALAMAT (THANK YOU) to everyone who continues to support us with donations of money and/or goods. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to help the people here so much. In all our activities, our primary focus is always the patient who comes to us for help.

Now I wish you all a wonderful rest of the summer and send my warmest greetings until we see you again in December at our annual general meeting.

Yours,

Sabine Korth

Donation:

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