



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

Bugko, December 2012

Dear members, dear friends, and supporters of Mabuhay!

As indicated in my last letter, Michael Kaluza has written of his stay here with us and I would like to share it with you.

Friends of the Mabuhay Clinic!

What have the Rhineland Carnival and Filipinos in common? You are happy in life! Whether 18 hours a day karaoke (typical favorite activity), and that a whole week long - or spontaneous "fiestas" with much dancing - or many children who still play in the street together - or a whole family (about 8) who is traveling on a single motorcycle ... Pure Life! And that manifests itself especially in the happy outlook and the hospitality of the people: always get a smile and gave everything to make your stay as pleasant as possible. In this Philippine joy I was dragged from June to September this year, and was allowed to do with Sister Sabine and Sister Veronica in Mabuhay Clinic a complete medical internship. First I had to get used to the time change (+7 hours), take the heat (26-35 degrees) and high humidity (90%). Although I just endured the tropical climate with short pants and T-shirt at work, just do the opposite.



They work under the blazing sun with long pants, sweater and a hat to protect themselves from sunburn. After a week of acclimatization I joined the work in the

Mabuhay Clinic. A normal working day was as follows: 6.30 am morning prayer, then breakfast, 8 to 11 am Clinic Hours, 12 O'clock lunch break, 2 to 5 pm Clinic Hours, 6pm evening prayer, followed by a dinner, 10pm night's sleep. Wednesday morning Sr. Sabine works as school nurse in a nearby high school, on a voluntary basis. On Saturday morning I went with Sr. Veronica to the village church(St. Francis of Assisi)in Bugko to teach and instruct the Altar boys and girls.



During the Clinic hours I was allowed to observe and assist Sr. Sabine and volunteer doctors and gave a supporting hand as much as possible. Close up I could learn which diseases and worries the people have who are coming to Mabuhay Clinic. I am particularly touched by children who were malnourished. Once a mother with her 3 year old son came over and she said, "he is not doing well". During the examination, Sr. Sabine found out that the boy weigh only 7.5 pounds, had 41.4 degree fever and a bad cold, his stomach was full of worms, and he still could not go! Speechless and without being too sentimental, my heart was almost torn in the chest! What would the doctors in Germany have done in a case like this? From a legal standpoint, I think I need not enumerate. Such a condition reflects the situation of the people of Northern Samar: No money - result: no food, no education, no doctor visits, etc.. The result is that many people, with "simple-harmless" diseases die! And precisely in this extreme case, I was able to experience the appeal of the two sisters: the human care and the concrete human and Dental Help (+ Feeding program) to the poorest, without asking first whether they have money or not!



A highlight was the Medical Mission, when 5 doctors from Manila came and examined about 650 patients free of charge. I was able to assist the surgeon in one morning, which was very exciting. On the two days I learned how well the Mabuhay Clinic has been accepted by the public and how they serve and give their patients the assurance that they are cared for. A mirror image of this for me is the many volunteers they have, mainly mothers who volunteer every day to keep the clinic running and serve in the medical mission as a team. This was

also seen in the medical education, which was during my time in the Dental field. Dr. Klaus de Cassan from the relief organization of German Dentists, the main supporters of the Mabuhay Clinic, came for a few days over from Germany with his wife to Bugko to give a training in dental prophylaxis.



Another highlight was the newly completed therapy and teaching pool. It was nice to see how children can enjoy in the water. Almost at the end of my time, I could start with the swimming lessons. Many drowned children were the reason for the foundation project. Much I could tell from my brief and intense period in the Philippines. Even though I wanted to enrich peoples' lives with my help, the more likely I was enriched by them. Therefore, a hearty God bless. Especially Sister Sabine and Sister Veronica, to Domingo and Dennis, all volunteers, Limpi, Sparky and Ming Ming, and also to all those who I had met in those three months Salamat!

Michael Kaluza

Hardly Michael Kaluza was back in Germany, Carsten and Doris H. came from Wildeshausen by Bremen to us. Dr. Carsten H. is a dentist and had read about our project in the newspaper. He and his wife always wanted to work in a development project. They worked much. In just two weeks, with the support of our local dentist, 656 patients were treated. 70 fillings were done with the rather sad conclusion of 1120 pulled teeth. The teeth were beyond saving and Dr. H. heart was bleeding every time when he had to pull children and young people permanent teethes. There were also a number of cleanings performed. The new prophylaxis unit we have is of great help. Ms. Hansen, and he worked tirelessly from early morning to often into the darkness. They usually had a lot of spectators in the back. The patients were lining up and came before six o'clock in the morning to the clinic. Our volunteers were always there and stayed until the last patient has been treated.



Here are some pictures:



The patients come in



These teeth can't be saved



Children's Teeth



At least a couple of teeth could be saved



Family H. also wrote a detailed report on their stay with us, which can be read in our website www.mabuhay-ev.de.

On October 9 Sr. Bergitta a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration based in Olpe/ Germany came to us.

She was one of the delegates for the golden anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Baybay / Leyte. She was allowed to stay a couple of days with us in Bugko and so we could show her a lot about the life of people in Bugko, the local hospital and the church here. For her it was a completely different world, but she was quickly infected by the friendliness and cheerfulness of Filipinos. Difficult was for her the high temperatures and especially the high humidity. While traveling from Northern Samar to Leyte (the neighboring island) she saw much of the lush vegetation and the beautiful scenery.



On the same day came our "youngest volunteer" Clea Mae was born. Chona our volunteer for many years gave birth to a baby girl.



This year we again participated in the campaign "DiBaDu and your team" over 5162 clubs had registered in our category. The Ing Diba wanted to donate € 1,000 to the 250 most voted voluntary organizations of various sizes, based in Germany. We belonged to the category of 51-200 members. Among the first 250 we did not make it but we finished with rank 873 and got for our club "Mabuhay help for life" 281 votes. I would like to thank all who voted for us.

A year of many changes and many visitors is coming to an end and I would like to thank all of you in the name of all Bugkoanons because without the many helping hands and financial support it would not be possible to run such a program here.

With best wishes for a happy new year and a merry Christmas I'm your

Sabine Korth

Malipayon nga Pasko (Merry Christmas) from Bugko!



Christmas tree made of plastic bottles in Samar

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