



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

Bugko, in September 2013

Dear members, friends and supporters of Mabuhay!

In my last letters, it appeared as if we are only doing dental services. Quite the contrary! Our focus is still in the Medical Care of patients. Every day we have a "full" clinic and the patients are coming from far away places and long distances in order to come to us. Sometimes Philippine doctors come to support us in our care for the sick. They come as volunteers.



Our patient numbers are constantly increasing, and we see a lot of very sick ones.



On 13 May elections were held again. In the Philippines, unfortunately, the votes are still being bought and usually the winners were those who had given the most. It is not always who would serve the best. I do not need to mention it. So we got in Northern Samar a completely new government. The future will show whether the province develops for the better. The bitter aftertaste of corruption persists, though everyone complains about it. The voters line is very long and Sr. Veronica was one of the election observers by the Church. As in the previous election automated machines (So-called PCOS) have been used like in the USA and at the end of the election day, the outcome of each PCOS machine will be printed and sent to the main server. For all results, the respective winner will be determined. Regional, i.e. in the province, it is relatively quick, nationally, such as for Senators, it takes a few days until the results are out.



Again through the help of the "Hilfswerk der deutschen Zahnärzte" we can finally open our laboratory. It was a lengthy process, as the regulations of the local health authorities are constantly changing and are very extensive. Thank God we were able to win a laboratory technician and a pathologist for us. Now the patient must not drive into the city. Especially for routine laboratory which is of great help because the travel costs exceed the actual cost of laboratory testing. We can do urine and stool tests, blood count and clinical chemistry. From day one it has been well received and we are glad to finally be able to also offer this service to patients.



The summer we used also to intensify our swimming lessons. We have an agreement with the local primary school and then the swimming lessons were incorporated as part of the sports teaching. Thank God, since we started it no drowning incident took place any more which shows how important it is that we incorporated the swimming lessons regularly in our Save a Life Ministry.



For the first time we were able to expand our nutrition program in the neighbouring village. There we have 71 children in the program. Again and again we were asked if we cannot implement it in other places after our feeding program has been so well received in Bugko and was successful. Many children come from severely underweight to normal weight by only one regular meal a day. It's terrible to know that there are still children here who eat sand, only to quench their hunger. Northern Samar is still the twelfth poorest province in the Philippines and Mondragon, one of its towns and where we are situated, is No. 3 in the list of having the highest number of malnourished children. The said number is really appalling.



From 21 July to 11 August Niklas S. from Bonn was here as an intern. He got some insights from our various programs and helped us in ways possible. Many children benefitted from his swimming lessons.

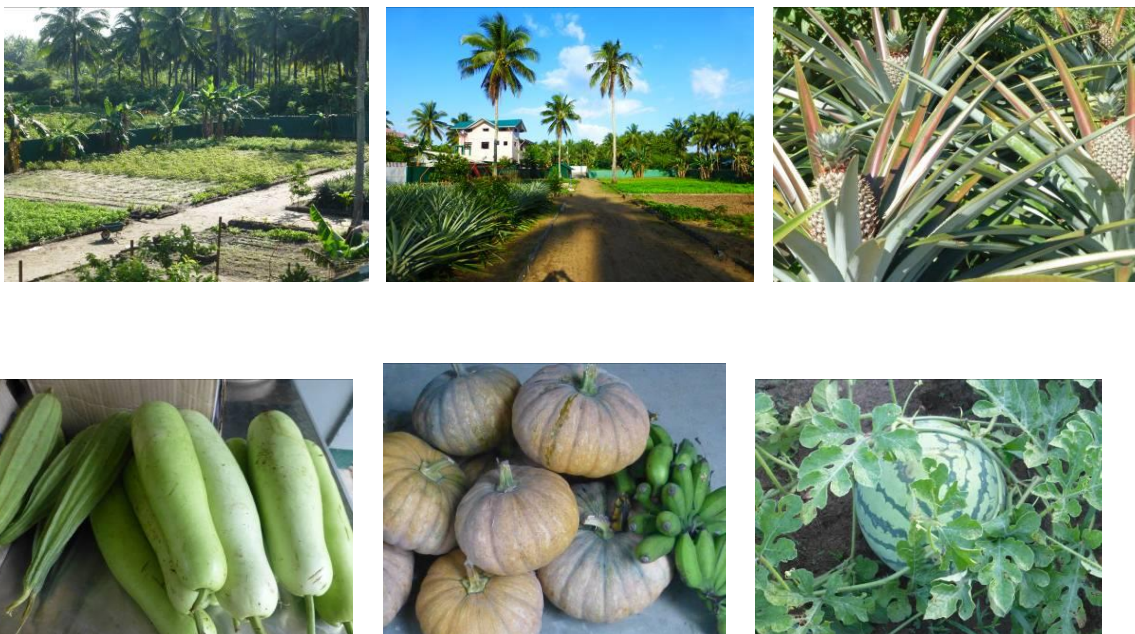


Last year from 22 - 28 August Klaus De Cassan from the Association of German Dentists (HDZ) came to us and held a seminar to our volunteers to deepen their knowledge about dental prophylaxis and in particular in dealing with the scaler for cleaning teeth. The seminar was a bit exciting and funny because our volunteers were still a bit awkward in using the instruments for the first time. He was accompanied this year by his daughter Nicole, who observed what her father has been doing on this site of the Philippines every time he is in the country.



Another focus for this year was also to train new volunteers by other volunteers who are already skilled and trained before. Some of you know this approach called "train the trainer". Thus we create more multipliers who assist us in our aim to improve health care in this very poor region of the Philippines.

Also this year we have a good harvest from our homegrown fruits and vegetables in our garden that we planted at the beginning of the year. The harvest helped us with our own needs on the one hand and on the other we can also help families who have little to eat. The vegetables also support our feeding program for malnourished children



I would like to thank all those who are responsible for our shipments. Many of you collect different tools, supplies and medicines for us and the Meyer family has been using their garage for years already to stock cartons and do packing of boxes with all things you collect. The boxes do arrive in perfect condition and until now nothing got lost. There are already so many generous people out there and at

present even small hands working for us quietly in the background. Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank You very sincerely.



On 30 August came Alex W. from South Bend Indiana to us. He has just made his high school degree and is with us to make a 9-month internship and just a day later, Theresa R. from Olpe came to us. She is a young teacher and wants to support us in our programs here. In the next newsletter I will write something more about them.



Again we were able to help so many, because you made it possible for us by your generous and all-out support. So once again Salamat (Thank you) to all of you from Bugko and may our Good Lord reward you a hundredfold.

With best wishes for a beautiful golden autumn, I am your

Sabine Korth

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