



Dear friends, and benefactors,

At the beginning of this Christmas letter, I would like to share a story I once received at Christmas, whose meaning has taken on a new depth for me in the light of our work.

“The anthropologist Margaret Mead was once asked what she considered to be the first sign of human civilization. People expected a weapon or a tool – but she simply replied: ‘A healed femur.’

A creature with a broken thighbone could only survive in early times if someone stayed at its side, brought it water and food, protected it, and did not give up. For Mead, care itself was the origin of civilization.”

This story resonates deeply with our daily life in Matany. Here, too, care lies at the heart of our work – and it is the reason why so much has been possible.



Healing Care

A year of collaboration – felt in the way we work together

Anyone walking through our hospital senses a family-like atmosphere that cannot be forced. It grows from gratitude, mutual understanding, and the awareness that each of us relies on the others.

Many of our staff have been able to pursue educational opportunities that would not have been possible

through their own means alone. This helps them to deeply understand our patients – people in vulnerable situations, often far from any stable support structures.



Moving together on the International Nurses Day

This “ability to step into someone else’s shoes” creates a special warmth that continues to surprise our visitors. It is a quiet yet precious part of the healing that takes place in Matany.

A place of healing – also through its environment

Matany is not only a place of medical treatment; it is a place that breathes life.

The well-kept paths and corridors, the flowering shrubs – all these elements work together to give people a sense of safety and dignity. Many patients tell us that here they experience healing “through all senses.” The calm surroundings, the smile of the nursing staff, the feeling of being welcome – all of this makes them feel: *I am not alone.*

Our motto expresses what happens here:
“We dress the wound, God heals it.”

We do what we can - with professionalism, patience, and dedication. But we know that healing is always greater than anything human effort can achieve. God is the One who completes what we are allowed to begin. This awareness protects us from being overwhelmed and keeps our gratitude alive.

A year of significant progress - thanks to your support

Alongside the inner growth and good spirit within our team, 2025 has also been a year of many visible improvements – often made possible through your generous support:

1. Infrastructure and construction projects

- Construction of a house for medical interns, funded by CUAMM supporters.
- Renovation and extension of the operating theatre, thanks to the generous support of the group from Milan. This work will be completed in February–March. Many fittings came from Germany.
- Expansion of the laboratory through a new microbiology section.
- Renovation of the entrance area of the radiology department.



Flowering shrubs in the Hospital

22. Strengthening our power supply – a major step into the future

Support came from the Archdiocese of Stockholm, the “Eine-Welt-Kreis” Zell, the State of Upper Austria, the Austrian “Dreikönigsaktion”, the Mercedes employees’ ProCent initiative, and individual donors.



- Construction of a new “Power House” to centrally manage our growing energy system.
- Installation of 11 modern large solar batteries in a secure, climate-controlled room.
- Integration of a new UPS system that reliably coordinates solar, generator, and grid power.
- Installation of 72 high-capacity solar panels on the roof of the Technical Department – an important milestone in reducing energy costs.
- Complete renovation of the main power line, new central distribution boards, improved building grounding, and updated sub-distribution panels across the hospital.

3. Water – the foundation of life

- Reconstruction of the pump house at our bore-hole
- Installation of a new water line from Lolain East to the main tank, including trenching and piping works.
- Additional gutters and a new water tank for the malnutrition ward.

4. Other improvements

- Stabilization of the waiting area in front of the laboratory.
- Repairs to the chimneys of both the main hospital kitchen and the nursing school.

- Various repairs and safety upgrades throughout the hospital.
- Expansion of the oxygen system, which now produces 120 L/min of oxygen.

These projects all contribute to making our work reliable, safe, and sustainable in the long term – and none of them would have been possible without your support.

Everything works together – just like in the other Christmas story

Looking back on the year, I am reminded:

The “healed bone” as the birth of civilization is not only an anthropological insight but also a profoundly Christmas message.



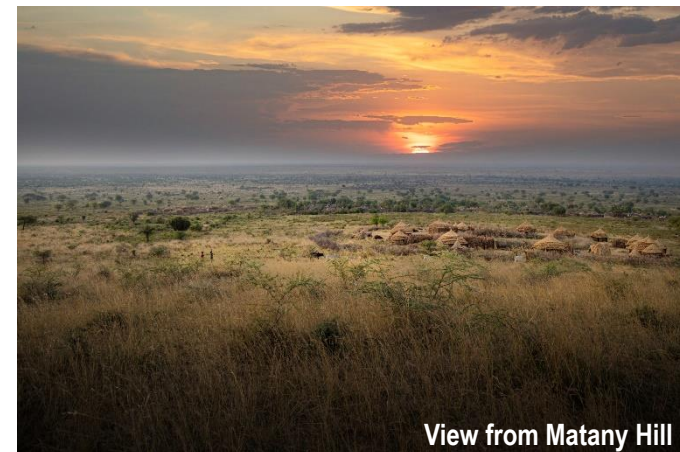
Christmas tells of a God who becomes human to remain close to us.
Of a love that does not stay distant but bends down, touches, and carries.
Of a light that does not overlook our wounds but heals them.

In Matany, we try to live a small reflection of this care – day by day, patient by patient, hand in hand.

A heartfelt thank you

On behalf of the entire team, thank you

- for every form of support,
- every prayer,
- every piece of advice,
- every silent gesture of solidarity,
- and every Euro that makes our work possible.



You help us continue living that care which Margaret Mead described as the first sign of human civilization – and, orienting ourselves always toward Christmas, to witness our Christian faith by safeguarding humanity.

Blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

May the joy of these days accompany you, may gratitude fill all our hearts, and may the peace of Christ be felt in your homes and your lives.

In solidarity,

Yours *Br. Günther and Team*