

*Ukiah Valley
Medical Center*



Marketing/Development
275 Hospital Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: 707-463-7606
Fax: 707-463-7384

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CONTACT: Jarrod McNaughton, Administrative Director, Marketing & Development
707-463-7606

UVMC Employee Prepares For Trip to Africa

UVMC Administrative Director of Marketing & Development, Jarrod McNaughton, is leaving for Nigeria, Africa on Saturday, June 11, 2005. This is McNaughton's sixth visit to the country as a project coordinator for medical outreach to the tribes and villages of Nigeria.

This year's group includes 12 people from around the U.S., with members from Louisiana, Idaho, and California. Local Ukiah resident Scott Dent will also be joining the team this year.

The team will visit three cities in Nigeria: Abuja, the capital city of the country along with Benin City, the oldest city in Nigeria and Lagos, the largest city of the country.

McNaughton will meet with the King of Gbagyi in Abuja where there is a large medical complex currently under construction. He will also meet with the Governor of the state of Kaduna, the director of religious affairs for the state and the commissioner of health. "We're trying our best to improve relations with vital federal and state officials in Nigeria to continue a building project that will end up serving thousands of Nigerians in the capital city," said McNaughton.

Nigeria is the largest country in Africa with more than 120 million people in an area slightly twice the size of California. Over 250 tribal languages are spoken in the country. More than 3.6 million Nigerians have acquired HIV/AIDS according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"We want to touch as many lives as possible to help educate and treat the people of Nigeria," said McNaughton. "We are so grateful that UVMC donated supplies and equipment for the project along with Catholic Healthcare West and several drug companies."

The team will be visiting hospitals throughout Nigeria and working with local officials to provide 8 medical outreach clinics while visiting the country.

Although the team is affiliated with the Church of God Mission International (CGMI), the team is a multi-denominational group affiliated with Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

“We go because the need is so great,” said McNaughton. “Each year our team treats thousands of people for everything from leprosy to large scale infections. It’s exciting to go on a trip where the only goal is helping our global neighbors and showing people that there is a God who loves them very much,” said McNaughton.

The team is scheduled to be in Nigeria until June 24, 2005.

For more information log onto <http://www.cogm.org/faithmediplex.htm>

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Ukiah Valley Medical Center is part of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit health system operating in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Founded on the Seventh-day Adventist legacy of Christian health care, Adventist Health is comprised of 20 hospitals with more than 3,100 beds, 18,300 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 16 home care agencies and three joint-venture retirement centers. For more information, visit www.uvmc.org or www.adventisthealth.org.