

*Ukiah Valley  
Medical Center*



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## **UVMC Employees Return from Africa**

UVMC Administrative Director of Marketing & Development, Jarrod McNaughton and Medical/Surgical Charge Nurse, Brad Morrison, RN, just returned from Nigeria, Africa. The two were part of an 11-member team that journeyed to the country on May 27, 2006. This is McNaughton's seventh visit to the country as a project coordinator and Morrison's first visit for medical outreach to the tribes and villages of Nigeria.

This year's group included 11 people from around the U.S., with members from Louisiana, Alaska, Idaho, and California.

The team visited four cities in Nigeria: Abuja-the capital city of the country, Kaduna-a heavily Muslim populated region, Benin City-the oldest city in Nigeria, and Lagos-the largest city of the country.

McNaughton and Morrison meet with the King of Kaduna and the king of a tribe near Benin City. "We're trying our best to improve relations with tribal officials in Nigeria to make it even easier for us to continue our medical outreaches that will end up serving thousands of Nigerians," 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 several other health care providers and drug companies."

The team visited hospitals throughout Nigeria and worked with local officials to provide 9 medical outreach tribal clinics which impacted over 2,000 patients.

Although the team is affiliated with the Church of God Mission International (CGMI), the team is a multi-denominational group associated 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 malaria 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.

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

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ATTENTION MEDIA: Photos available upon request.

*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](http://www.uvmc.org) or [www.adventisthealth.org](http://www.adventisthealth.org).*