MCC SALT/YAMEN Service Opportunity

Assignment Title & Partner Organization: SALT/YAMEN: Nursing Assistant – Faith Alive Foundation

Term: August 17, 2021 – July 21, 2022
FTE: 1.0
Location: Jos, Nigeria
Date Required: August 17, 2021

Program information and policies can be found at mcc.org/salt or mcc.org/yamen

MCC is an equal opportunity employer, committed to employment equity. MCC values diversity and invites all qualified candidates to apply.

Synopsis:

The SALT/YAMENer will serve alongside Faith Alive Foundation staff and volunteers to develop/assist in implementing more organized medical services. The participant will also be involved in OTZ (Operation Triple Zero), a club for HIV positive adolescents to mentor them and give support to the officer in charge of the unit.

Qualifications:

All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship; active church membership; and nonviolent peacemaking.

An invitation to an assignment is contingent on the successful completion of a criminal background check.

- A current nursing license/certification with a minimum of one year of experience.
- Strong human relations skills, with the ability to listen/facilitate group process.
- Ability to take initiative and work independently, as well as be part of a team.
- Willingness to learn Nigerian style patient care and medical management.
- Creative spirit and willing to engage with anyone in conversation.
- Able and willing to learn new language and culture.
- Willingness to walk alongside people, with a non-discriminatory attitude toward race, gender, social status, religion, etc.
- Able to work in a stressful environment.
- Able to make needs known and communicate them well.
- Willingness to walk alongside those with limited financial resources, living with HIV/AIDS, etc.
- Strong self-care skills, self-aware, and able to set healthy boundaries.
- Able and willing to walk or bike long distances.

Assignment Narrative:

The SALT/YAMENer will be seconded to Faith Alive Foundation (FAF), an evangelical Christian non-profit organization, established in 1996.
FAF envisions a self-sustaining, internationally recognized, medical and social services center which meets the needs of humanity in a holistic way. To be able to accomplish this vision, FAF seeks “to serve humanity by expressing God’s love through compassionate voluntary services and the provision of free holistic healthcare and social services for improved quality of life. FAF provides a full range of medical, social & spiritual care and support to those in need, particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS”.

Faith Alive, being a comprehensive holistic health center, believes in a “From birth to death” concept and has a standard delivery suite, pre-natal/labor/delivery and post-natal programs that strongly believe in male involvement. There is also a cemetery for patients abandoned to Faith Alive’s ministry.

Faith Alive operates satellite clinics in different communities that are hard to reach so that patients don’t need to travel great distances to receive care at the main hospital in Jos. These sites include Kafanchan and Bakin-Kogi (Kaduna States), Yola (Adamawa State), Ugboha (Delta state) with Faith Alive clubs in secondary schools, Andaha (Nasarawa State), and Fobur and HwolYarje (Plateau State) Outreach Centers. Faith Alive also operates a club for Adolescents who are HIV positives, this club is helping young people rediscover their potentials which they lost due to the impact of the disease.

Routine surgeries occur mainly on Thursdays, Fridays and occasionally Saturdays.

In a reciprocal manner, the participant will help with capacity building and assisting with patient care. This position would be supervised by head of the medical department and officer in charge nursing services and a doctor must be involved in all emergencies.

More information about Faith Alive Foundation can be found on their website: [http://www.faithalivenigeria.org](http://www.faithalivenigeria.org)

**Duties:**

A specific schedule will be arranged between the participant and their supervisor, to accommodate individual strengths, qualifications, and/or interests. Activities may include:

- Be involved in triaging clients and providing other nursing care as required by the physicians or clients.
- Assist mainly in clinics, ART adult and children clinic, ANC, deliveries and post natal care, surgeries, pre & post operatively, ward rounds, and the adolescent clinic.
- Assist in research, mentoring and policy formation, such as nursing standard operation procedures/auditing, including use of checklists and sterilization/standard precautions.
- Assist in training, support, advice, and facilitation of learning for Faith Alive nurses in its quest for internationally standardized patient care.
- Liaise with other medical and non-medical staff in the hospital to ensure quality treatment.

**Location Description:**

Economically, Nigeria has experienced great fluctuations; the trend in the last 39 years has been downward. Boosted by the oil boom of the 1970’s, the economy prospered – only to plunge as the price of oil bottomed out. Widespread corruption drained off millions of Naira. Nigeria remains almost totally economically dependent on oil, despite its numerous natural and human resources.
While the average Nigerian still holds out hope for things to ultimately improve in their country – serious problems continue. "The government faces the daunting task of reforming a petroleum-based economy, whose revenues have been squandered through corruption and mismanagement, and institutionalizing democracy. In addition, defusing longstanding ethnic and religious tensions are a priority if Nigeria is to build a sound foundation for economic growth and political stability." [CIA World Fact Book].

Nigerian currency comes in Naira. There are Naira notes in denominations of five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, two hundred, five hundred and one thousand Naira. The Naira fluctuates in value.

The largest language groups are Hausa in the north, Yoruba in the west, and Ibo in the east. Hausa is the common trade language throughout northern and central Nigeria, which includes areas with many smaller groups. Members of these smaller groups speak their own language and learn Hausa as a second language to get along socially and commercially. English is the official language in Nigeria. People with a secondary school education know English, whereas less educated and rural people speak only their tribal language and/or Hausa, Yoruba or Ibo.

Nigeria is a tropical country in the northern hemisphere, between four and fourteen degrees north of the equator. In Plateau State there are two distinct seasons: a dry season from October to April, and a rainy season from May to September. During the dry season, harmattan dust fills the air and obscures the sun, lowering temperatures considerably. March and April are the hottest months. The rains bring cooler weather. In Central Nigeria the rainfall is about 40 inches annually. The North receives 10-15 inches annually. In areas where MCC has involvement, temperatures range from 70-115°F or 20-50°C, except on the Plateau. With an elevation of 4000 feet, the Plateau has a temperature range of 55-95°F or 12-36°C.

Religions practiced in Nigeria tend to be regionally and ethnically based. This situation accentuates regional and ethnic distinctions and has often been seen as a source of sectarian conflict among the population. Many conflicts termed "religious conflicts" are in reality political or tribal issues. Christians and Muslims are almost equally divided, together making up about 90% of the total population [Wikipedia].

Electricity is often sporadic with lengthy blackouts. Electricity is 220 volts, 50 cycle. Rural areas may have no electricity or a generated supply for certain hours of the day.

**Challenges:**

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect countries around the world. While we remain hopeful that the pandemic will have stabilized by August 2021, to prioritize the well-being and limit risk to our participants and the local community, assessments of each assignment will continue on a regular basis. If it is deemed that an assignment is no longer viable, we will do our best to help you secure an alternative assignment.
- Jos will be cold and dusty from October to February.
- The local diet would include fish/seafood and, in many homes, there is a heavy use of peanut products in daily food preparation.
- High levels of pollution (from automobiles, burning trash, etc.)
- Outside of Jos, there would be long distances to emergency medical care; Canada/U.S. standard dental care is not available. Professional counseling and mental health services are extremely limited.
- Long distance walking/biking may be required.
- There is political instability & security issue are high, though Jos is very calm now and conditions are improving. The participant must abide by security guidelines provided by MCC and the partner organization.
- The local area and churches are not supportive to LGBTQ+ persons. LGBTQ+ lifestyles are considered illegal. Support of or participation in such lifestyles can be dangerous.
- Managing frustration when things don’t turn out as expected can be hard. While we do our best to determine and outline job responsibilities with our local partners, assignments really come alive based on the passions, skills, and giftings of an individual. Responsibilities may change or be refined over time in communication with supervisors to meet the ongoing changes and needs within a local context. As such, the greatest characteristics a participant can bring to an assignment are adaptability, flexibility, patience, a willingness to get your hands dirty, and humility to complete even mundane tasks.
- For those who are very task oriented, it can be a challenge to recognize the importance of "being" instead of always "doing" as building healthy relationships and mutually transformative learning is an important part of the participant experience. We hope participants will come with a desire to walk alongside our local partners, rather than see the assignment solely as a way to "get things done".