

MCC SALT/YAMEN Service Opportunity

Assignment Title & Partner Organization: YAMEN: Health Assistant – Faith Alive Foundation

Term: August 17, 2021 – July 21, 2022

FTE: 1.0

Location: Jos, Nigeria

Date Required: August 17, 2021

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

More information about the YAMEN program can be found at mcc.org/yamen

Synopsis:

The YAMENER will serve alongside relevant staff and volunteers to develop and assist in the implementation of organized medical, health, and administrative services at Faith Alive Foundation (FAF). FAF is an evangelical Christian non-profit, that provides medical and social services to help meet the needs of humanity in a holistic way.

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.

- Degree or Diploma in Medical/Health Sciences and/or Public Health.
- Work experience in the health sector is an asset but not required.
- Willingness to learn Nigerian style patient care and management is required.
- Strong English language skills and a willingness to learn local language.
- Willingness to walk alongside all people, with a non-discriminatory attitude toward race, gender, social status, religion, etc.
- Able to take initiative, work independently, be outgoing, and a self-starter, while still able to work well as part of a team.
- Able to work in a stressful environment with creativity in problem-solving, demonstrating patience and professionalism at all times.
- Strong relational skills, with the ability to listen/facilitate group processes.
- Demonstrated leadership skills and desire to be an agent of change.
- Dependable, motivated, and a strong work ethic.
- Strong communication and presentation/facilitation skills.
- Able to conduct research and analyze data.
- Demonstrated Strategizing, planning, organizational skills, including being able to multitask and work efficiently.
- Strong computer skills.
- Able and willing to participate, lead, and facilitate collective staff prayer and bible studies.

- Able to work with children or vulnerable people in an appropriate and safe manner in accordance with both the MCC and the Faith Alive safeguarding policy.
- Able and willing to walk or bike long distances.

Assignment Narrative:

The YAMENer would be seconded to Faith Alive Foundation (FAF), an evangelical Christian non-profit organization, established in 1996 in Jos.

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”. More information about Faith Alive Foundation can be found on their website: <http://www.faithalivenigeria.org>

Faith Alive operates small satellite clinics in outlying areas 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) with Faith Alive clubs in secondary schools, Andaha (Nasarawa State), and Fobur and HwolYarje (Plateau State) Outreach Centers.

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.

This position is supervised by Head of Medical Department and head of Administration.

Duties:

In a reciprocal manner, the YAMENer assist FAF with developing the capacity for patient care. A specific schedule will be arranged between the individual and their supervisor, so as to accommodate the participant’s individual strengths, qualifications, and/or interests. Some possibilities include:

Laboratory and Health Science:

- Be physically present to assist patients and attend to peculiar situations.
- Decontaminate work surface and update charts.
- Assemble clinical specimens and transport them to the lab.
- Physically examine specimens for suitability.
- Smear, fix, and stain specimens where required.
- Examine stained smears microscopically.
- Write out results and convey to reception.
- Update appropriate patient records and registers.
- Prepare positive and negative control smears from known samples.
- Periodically carry out quality checks.
- Perform routine daily and weekly maintenance of equipment.
- Decontaminate and safely dispose of generated wastes appropriately.

Public Health and Patient Care:

- Advocate for patients and clients and coordinate patients discharge information.
- Assist in planning rehabilitation care.
- Respond to environmental disasters or other crisis situations.
- Provide individual or group counseling and work with the palliative program.
- Refer patients or clients to available assistance programs.
- Assist with health education programs at Faith Alive's free pre-elementary and Elementary school and also help develop a health education curriculum.

Research and Administration:

- Coordinate with the Daily Health Talk Organizers to assist with occasional health talks to patients and staff (on public health as well as spiritual issues).
- Guest lecture to the medical team at Faith Alive's clinical meetings held on Fridays 3-4pm in various disciplines.
- Collect and analyze data working with the Monitoring and evaluating unit (Strategic Information Unit).
- Supervise Faith Alive Electronic Medical Record system and see to its full implementation.
- Help further/enhance FAF's current strategic plans in handling emerging infectious diseases.

Location Description:

Economically, Nigeria has experienced great fluctuations; the trend in the last 35 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 use a generator for limited 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 is relatively 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".