

UPON THIS ROCK MEDICAL CENTER – OZU ABAM, NIGERIA

Little did we know my Dad was diabetic, high blood pressure and developing glaucoma until he passed. Same thing happened to my aunt in 2009.

As I processed this painful experience and dug deeper into what was happening, I realized that I wasn't alone. Others in the community are dying every day from preventable diseases due to lack of access to quality and affordable healthcare.

In 2011, I decided to do something about it. I started searching online for organizations that goes on medical mission to Africa. While searching online, I ran into a lady, her name is Janice Walker and she runs a non-profit organization called Project SAVE based in Chico California. At the end of our first discussion that day, Mrs. Walker assured me that she can donate a container load of medical supplies and equipment to my mission free of charge. I then enquired from Janice if she knows a doctor that can help us on a medical mission. Sure, she said and gave me a number of a doctor that turned out to live not too far from me, Dr Glenn Geelhoed and we have been friends since then.

It was in one of our conference call meeting in August 2011 that a member of Mission to Heal said to me, James, if you build a clinic in your village in Nigeria, we will come and help you. Dr Geelhoed gave his full support to the request. I said Yes, I can do that, despite the fact that I had only about \$4000 of savings in my bank account. By the end of October, I left to Nigeria with about \$4500. I had to sell my personal belongings truck, generators, cars and much more to raise funds for the project.

With my professional civil engineering experience in construction industry, I was determined to do more with the little money I have. I designed the clinic, was my own prime contractor and purchased all my materials and labor. In just about four weeks, we were able to bring the facility to roofing level, including a brand new borehole for clean water. Upon my return back to US in December of 2012, my family and I continued to sacrifice, avoiding several social events just to save part of my salary to continue with the construction of the clinic.



UTR's facility being built in 2012.



Borehole and Clean Water Installations

In June of 2012, I went back to Nigeria to start roofing, electrical, plumbing, windows, doors and all that was needed to get close to completion.

Meanwhile, the container load of medical supplies and equipment arrived Nigeria on July 5, 2012. Cost of freight and logistics was so high that Project SAVE again responded to our cry by donating \$2000 to help with customs tariff and clearing. Sharon Scott, a lady that visited Ozu Abam, back in the 1960's as a corper was generous enough to donate \$1000 to help in delivering the container to its final destination. "Clean Water for The World" donated a UV water purification unit, which is now being used to provide clean drinking water to patients and residents around the clinic.

By December 2012, the facility was completed and ready to open its door to the community.



Roofing Stage



Plastering and Exterior Finishing



Finished Exterior of the Medical Center

The seed we planted in 2011, building a clinic to be dedicated solely to the people of the community has grown to “UPON THIS ROCK MEDICAL CENTER” providing high quality healthcare services in the community.



Reception



Reception



Maternity Ward



Maternity Ward



General Ward



General Ward



Medical Laboratory



Medical Laboratory



Dental



Scanning/Ultrasound



Pharmacy



Exam Room



Doctor's Office



Nurses Bay

DECEMBER 31, 2012 DEDICATION CEREMONY





DECEMBER 26 – JANUARY 8, 2013 M2H MEDICAL MISSION



Patients at the Medical Center

CHALLENGES

We need help in the following areas:

- Equipment and supplies for the Lab, Radiology/X-ray, Eye, Dental and Surgical Units.
- Equipment, Supplies and Nutrition for Maternity, Pregnant Mothers, Elderly and Children Health Program.

- Donations to support/sustain medical workers at the center and continuous infrastructural development at the center.
- Solar Power for lighting and water supplies.
- Voluntary medical and non medical missions

From my beautiful wife and family, we are eternally grateful and say “Thank You” to the following people and organizations for their wonderful supports in helping us realize these dreams.

1. **Dr Glenn Geelhoed** – Mission To Heal
2. **Janice Walker** – PROJECT SAVE
3. **Dr Larry Conway** – Medical Mission Hall of Fame
4. **Sharon Scott** – Family and long time friend to Ozu Abam community.
5. **Marguerite Schondebare** – Whistles for Peace
6. **Chuck Dambrowski** - Clean Water for The World
7. **Ndem Onwuka** – Mcdemus & Co LLC, CPA & management Consultants

Contact Us

Ndi Oji Junction
Ozu Abam, Arochukwu L.G.A
Abia State, Nigeria
Tel: 07012591375, 08038726960, 07085442810

James Umekwe
1001 Merganser Court
Upper Marlboro, 20737
USA
Tel: 301-257-4354
ozuone@aol.com
www.uponthisrockmedicalcenter.org

