

# **NEWSLETTER # 3, January 2020**

## **2020 PNG-KLS-SPLC Reunion**

### **October 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**Mt. Olivet Conference & Retreat Center, Farmington, Minnesota, U.S.A.**

**Greetings to all of our friends on the PNG/KLS/SPLC reunion mailing list. Please read this Newsletter. It provides more information about our 2020 Reunion.**

**As always, we welcome your comments, critique, and feedback in an effort to present quality information that will hopefully encourage many of you to attend.**

**Dr. Yoshitaka Franklin Ishida**



**In this third edition, we are highlighting Dr. Y. Franklin Ishida. He is currently the ELCA representative to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG).**

Like us, the Rev Dr. Yoshitaka Franklin Ishida is also a Third Culture Kid. He is the son of a Japanese Lutheran Pastor and American Missionary mother. He is fluent in English, Japanese and French. Born in Kurume, Japan, Franklin Ishida grew up in Japan, Switzerland, and the United States. Franklin and his spouse, Emily Demuth Ishida, have three children: David, Hans-Martin, and Louisa.

Dr. Ishida serves as Director for Asia and the Pacific with the Global Mission Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He travels extensively, engaging with churches and institutions throughout Asia and Australia, overseeing missionary work, and visiting development projects. He has served on behalf of the ELCA in relationships to churches, theological institutions, agencies, and NGOs in 19 Asian countries. During the summer of 2019 he was at the Companion Synod Consultation in PNG.

He has a B.A. in human rights from St. Olaf College in Minnesota; an M.A. in international relations and strategic studies from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom; a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary, St. Paul; and a Doctor of Ministry from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He also received a Doctor of Divinity - *Honoris Causa* from the Academy of Ecumenical Indian Theology and Church Administration.

He was ordained in 1990 and served parishes in Tinley Park and Elmhurst, Illinois, U.S.A. He worked at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland with the communications department from 1984-1986. Prior to his current position, he was director for leadership development with ELCA Global Mission.

For leisure, Dr. Ishida practices Aikijutsu, and enjoys photography and trains.

**We look forward to learning Dr. Ishida's perspective on PNG and the ELC-PNG.**

## **An Opportunity To Donate To The Reunion**

This time around, your Planning Committee has developed a process for anyone interested in financially supporting the reunion planning effort. As a point of awareness, there is no preferential tax treatment for the funds contributed and the funds can only be used to help defray costs related to the reunion. They can be earmarked for the General Fund or speaker expenses. Another consideration would be to possibly help someone attend the reunion that may otherwise not be able to do so. Whatever the funding designation, rest assured that the funds will be managed prudently for 'all things reunion'.

Please make checks payable in USD\$ to:

Gary Schoonover  
16407 Forest Boulevard N  
Hugo, Minnesota  
U.S.A. 55038

***In the check Memo Line, please write: 'PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion'***

**Note:** Western Union and PayPal work for International payment transactions and donations, with the possibility of some transaction fees to consider.

## **Family Poster Boards**

If you would like to share some photos and family history, please consider contacting Cynthia Schoonover who has put together family story boards for past reunions. This is an easy way for several people to view information at the same time and the boards are a good conversation starter. Some families that have story boards are Brandt, Fenske, Heist, Hueter, Johnson, Kirchhoff, Mansur, Sandager, Schardt, Schulz, Tuff, Walck and Walters.

**If you are interested, please gather 20 to 30 photos that depict your family's life in PNG, KLS and/or St Peters. Be sure to include written information about each photo. There are several ways to get them to Cynthia: her email address is [gschoonover04@msn.com](mailto:gschoonover04@msn.com). Please write PNG/ Wau/ St Peters in the subject line in case it goes to junk mail and she'll find it. You can also use snail mail, Dropbox, Google Drive or OneDrive, or if you have another way you prefer, it can be discussed.**

# **Preview of our PNG-KLS-SPLC Reunion**

## **Thursday, October 8th, 2020, 3PM CDT until Sunday, October 11th, 3PM CDT**

### **Speakers And Other Sessions**

**Dr. Ruth Van Reken:** well known researcher on *Third Culture Kids*, and author of two books on the subject: *Letters Never Sent* and *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*, will present and facilitate for two sessions (Friday and Saturday) and be available throughout the reunion for individual and small group conversations.

**Dr. George Weiblen:** Dr. Weiblen will follow up on his fascinating 2017 reunion presentation. You can click on, or copy and paste, this video link to view it— <https://youtu.be/lhMDyp1ur48> updating us on his ongoing scientific research in PNG, and focusing particularly on his November 2019 visit to Madang Province for the anniversary celebrating "100 years of the Good News in Papua New Guinea". (Saturday)

**Dr. Franklin Ishida:** Director for Asia and the Pacific with the Global Mission Unit of the ELCA, will share recent experiences with and perceptions about PNG and the ELCONG presence there. (Friday)

**Skype session with wontoks living in PNG:** We are contacting individuals who can update us on recent cultural, political and economic reality in PNG, and share personal insights. (Friday)

**Multiple group photo sessions and videos throughout the 4 day event**

**Closing remarks and sharing (Sunday after lunch)**

### **Open microphone time**

We'll have two **Open Mic** sessions. We have found this to be an informal and fun way of hearing each other's stories in a group setting. After the opening presentation/discussion in each session, please feel welcome to share what is on your mind or in your heart. After all, that is what this time is all about, and all will be respectful of what you may have to say.

- On Friday Mark Singh-Hueter and Dave Hueter will open a conversation about 2019 PNG experiences.
- On Saturday we'll start with ideas about what to do with our parents' PNG artifacts.

## **Time for relaxing, reconnecting, meditation or activity**

- Reconnect with old friends and get to know others
- Start out your day with a hike, a swim or a meditation activity
- Ping-pong DONKEY tournaments, volleyball, ideas for a favorite KLS activity
- Fire ring gathering each evening for music, story-telling, catching up
- Evening chapel, including a *Remembrance Service*. Attendees may share names and memories of loved ones who have passed from this earth into eternity, so that we may honor their memory and legacy during the service, which will include a reading of their names, candlelight, hymns, and prayers.
- Singing English and Pidgin hymns at Devotions and during our Sunday Service

## **Displays to enjoy**

- ***Family photo board:*** If you don't have one from previous reunions, or aren't sure, contact Cynthia at [gschoonover04@msn.com](mailto:gschoonover04@msn.com)
- ***Bring your own photo or memory albums to share***
- ***PNG artifacts and books display***

## **A Few Questions For You—PLEASE LET US KNOW**

Your answers to these questions are an important planning tool.

Please REPLY to this NEWSLETTER email, or if responding at a later date, search for this SUBJECT LINE in your inbox:

- PNG-KLS-SPLC Reunion Newsletter #3.
- Insert your answers, then hit the SEND icon.

The first question is new, so please answer that one. The other four questions were in the last newsletter, so if you have already answered those, thank you! We have your responses recorded, and we'll share compiled results in a future newsletter.

- **What were your three (3) fondest memories of KLS/SPLC/PNG?**
- **For those who haven't responded yet, are you planning (or hoping) to attend this 2020 reunion?**
- **Did you attend KLS? If YES, what years?**
- **Did you attend SPLC? If YES, what years?**
- **In what role did you or your parents serve in Papua New Guinea? In what years?**

**We appreciate any and all of your feedback. We all look forward to seeing you in 2020.**

**The following is a current list of 53 people that have indicated they are planning to attend our reunion in 2020. Let's see if we can double it through this and future Newsletters!! At this point it is not a commitment. Just planning data for internal use only, but helpful none-the-less.**

Beth Amman Barcal Busta	Becky Goldhart Pukulus	Gary Schoonover
Jane Blythe Ireland	John Groat	Jim Schulz
Donna Daechsel Smallwood	Melanie Hannan	Paula Schulz Mitchell
Kay Edwards Horntvedt	Barb Hueter Reardon	Tanya Senff Mayer
Ivan Amman	David Hueter	Grace Senff Payne
Fred Brandt	Mark Singh Hueter	Christine Sievert Koch
Mark Brandt	Hanne Jacobsen	Malcolm Thomson
Samuel Brandt	Michael Jacobsen	Dianne Tuff
Mary Brandt Croft	Carla Larson	Maggie Tuff
Jonathan Davis	Scott Larson	Markus Uhlirz
Loretta Davis	Chris Mansur	Martin Voss
Philip Davis	Cynthia Mansur Schoonover	Christoph Wagner
Heather Diczbalis	Barbara Mansur Zadow	Ken Walck
Yan Diczbalis	Athol Pukulus	Leslie Walck
Angela Frerichs	Elinor Radke	Pam Brubaker Walck
Catherine Frerichs	Ruth Radke	Eric Walters
Jonathan Frerichs	Theodore Radke	Jon Walters
Marian Frerichs	Jane Sandager Schubert	

**Your 2020 Reunion Planning Team:**

**Fred Brandt, Mark Brandt, Sam Brandt, Dawn (Daechsel) McLean, Phil Davis, Paula (Schulz) Mitchell, Barb (Hueter) Reardon, Cynthia (Mansur) Schoonover, Gary Schoonover, Mark Singh-Hueter, Dianne Tuff, Les Walck.**