

The MK Nexus: A Conversation With Friends

***In this discussion Nexus is defined as a connection or link between things, persons, or events.**

WHAT THE SESSION IS ABOUT

The MK Nexus Program is composed of three steps. It embraces memories of who we were as children 50-60 years ago, reflects on our individual values, choices and actions, and links us to our worldviews and who we are today.

Some early inflection points in of our lives were knowing that we had to leave home and leave our parents, and go far away on an airplane to a school. We were homesick and couldn't do anything about it. For others, it may have been being left behind while our siblings were sent away. Perhaps for some it was about fitting in with other children we did not know, fitting in with the non-MK community, or the indigenous community. Still others may have found things different or difficult when returning to our parents' "home" country. Our extended families (and often the nuclear family) were split up when our parents returned to PNG. All of these circumstances were possibly quite difficult for a period of time. As time went along, we got involved with our lives elsewhere, and consequently more accepting or less challenged by our new reality.

Ruth van Reken told us her stories of life as an MK and how her life was shaped by those experiences in various ways. These stories included her two years at boarding school, her four years of home schooling, re-entry to the USA and various other factors. Each of us have also been shaped by our unique personal story even as it is shaped in community.

As a result of these considerations, how did the boarding school/MK experience influence your world view, ie. level of trust, work ethic, ability to take initiative, self-confidence, persistence, self-awareness, your religious choices, your political choices, your family interactions, your social skills, your academic and professional choices, or whatever else you may be interested in adding to the list, and what was the resultant impact on your worldview and who you are today?

This conversation at the upcoming reunion is about your journey towards who you are today. It could be a timeline of your life in 3 minutes or less, or maybe some particular event(s) that influenced your world view. It is absolutely not about trying to change, convert, or critique your story, or criticize anything you may have to say. This conversation can only be accomplished with talking, listening* and respectfully asking questions. Any 'WHY' questions that may surface are not meant to be a challenge to anyone, but are simply a genuine request for more information.

In summary, The Vision of the 'MK Nexus' is to enjoy an open, well thought out, informal, conversation that adds personal depth to our shared boarding school and /or MK relationships. How did your individual boarding school and/or MK experiences influence your lives, your thinking, and ultimately your world view today?

Note: For any participant who may not be MK, please read this document through your own lens and connection with PNG.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS CONVERSATION.

- Please print the information.
- Considering this information, think about what you would like to share with everyone on how your past boarding school/ MK experience influenced your worldview(s) today.
- IN THREE (3) MINUTES OR LESS, concisely describe some aspects of your life's journey as an MK and how it impacted your worldview and your life today.
- Time your presentation as you prepare in advance so that you do not get cut off by the Time Keeper.
- Timing of your presentation should be your responsibility and not that of the Timekeeper. Preparation is especially important when many other folks are involved and want time to be able to tell their story also.
- After the presentations there will be an opportunity for questions and comments
- For further information please contact our Program Committee link: Dawn Daechsel at d.daechsel@telus.net

Note: The three (3) minute time constraint is a requirement due to our program time limitations.

Let's all enjoy an enlightening conversation.

* “Listening isn’t’ just waiting for your turn to talk – it’s the act of fully absorbing another’s perspective” Jeff Wetzler

REFERENCES TO REFER TO:

Ruth van Reken: “Third Culture Kids”, “Letters Never Sent”, “Life in Motion – Growing Through Transitions”.