

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA SUNDAY

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024



*This is the group drawn from the Central States Synod and 3 other synods of the ELCA as well as well as the 4 companion districts of the ELCPNG who gathered for a consultation in 2019*

A four-person delegation from the Central States Synod will be traveling to Papua New Guinea in August to participate in a consultation there and visit our companion district. However, there are no funds budgeted by the synod for this purpose. **Can you help fund travel to this very important gathering in Papua New Guinea?** The consultation will include representation from 3 other synods who have companion districts in PNG as well as representatives from the companion districts and the national church partnership offices of the ELCPNG and the ELCA.

The consultation and visitation is for the purpose of revitalizing our companion church ministries following the covid pandemic. The delegation from the CSS will follow-up on the Sunday School project, build relationship with a new District president following the death of the previous president, explore the possibility of young adults serving as Camp Counselors at Camp Tomah Shinga, as well as other possible areas of partnership in ministry.

• Let me share with you a recent communication from Pastor Erena Waraga, the current president of the Kote District.

**Greetings to all of our friends in the USA. God be with you all.**

*We are currently fighting a plan by a gold mining company called Wapi/Golpu to build a pipeline that will dump mine waste in the waters of*

*the Huon gulf. Our district has joined with the national church in objecting to this plan as it would threaten the waters that are a primary source of food for a great many of our people.*

*We appreciate the money collected by your synod to help us purchase new Sunday School materials. Our circuits are now working to raise our portion of the funds so that the materials can be printed. . . Thank you for thinking of us and for your prayers.*

**Pastor Erena Waraga, president, Kote District,**



*The 2019 visitation team from the Central States Synod with the District Council of the Kote District during discussions about where, when and how we can be partners in ministry.*

Please consider a special offering on Papua New Guinea Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 designated for Companion Synod Travel.

If your congregation has a mission endowment fund, please let the synod Office know if it would be possible to apply to it for funding for the consultation.

If your congregation has undesignated benevolence, please consider directing it toward the Companion Synod Consultation.

Funds should be sent to the Synod Office designate for Companion Synod Travel, or, Papua New Guinea Consultation.

Please include President Erena Waraga, the people of the Kote District, ELCPNG as well as the people of Papua New Guinea in your personal and congregational prayers, especially on Papua New Guinea Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

by Dr Rev. Mamy Ranaivoson

My family and I were missionaries in Papua New Guinea from 1992 to 1999.

It was part of the South-South Mission program of the Lutheran World Federation and supported by the ELCA. Missionaries usually are from the countries in the Northern Hemisphere, going to and serving in the countries in the Southern Hemisphere, North-South. The South-South mission program means that people from the Southern Hemisphere, like us, from Madagascar, went to serve in another country in the Southern Hemisphere, like Papua New Guinea. It was a trial program and we were among the first. This program is still going on around the world.

There were many positive things out of the South-South mission program. As a physician, we have the same type of diseases in the Tropical Areas. The cultural gap between us was not huge! We respect the older people in both societies of Madagascar and Papua New Guinea. The foods were basically the same. We came from the fourth biggest island in the world and PNG is the second biggest island in the world. Seafoods are our best!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in PNG (ELC-PNG) is the name of the church there and our church is the Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC).

ELC-PNG has a membership of approximately 2 million, representing 20% of the total population of Papua New Guinea and the MLC has roughly 5 million members out of 25 million population (20% as well)

The Lutheran Health Services in PNG provides efficient health services to the people of Papua New Guinea, especially in the Rural area. They have 4 hospitals with doctors, 28 health centers run by Nurses, 88 aid posts with Community Health Workers, and 14 two-men aid posts.

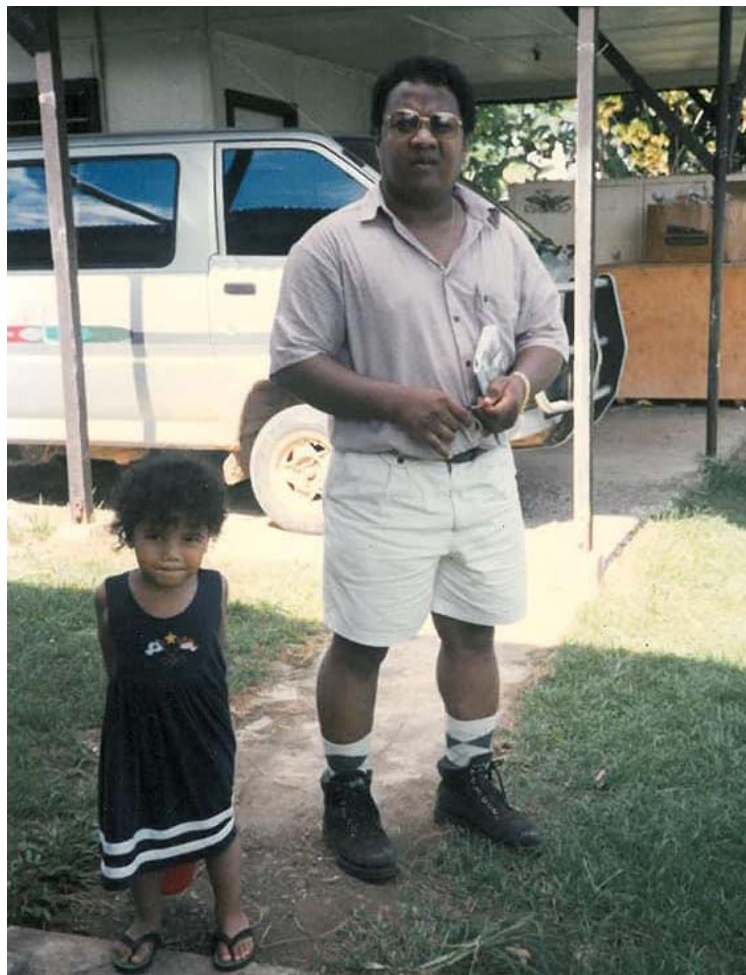
I have worked in the 3 hospitals out of the 4 there.

When we first arrived there in 1992, people accepted us right away! As not only do we resemble them, but also we mastered the language and having our young children with us were a positive things for the ELC-PNG. The current status of the missionaries today are whether they are young, single, out of schools or universities, or they were retired people who came to be there for couple years 1 or 2 or 3 years max.

During my last year of the Seminary, as I was exploring the Synod that I would love to work after my graduation, I came to know that the Central States Synod is one of the companion Synods of the ELC-PNG. I did not hesitate to look for a call in the Central States Synod then and thank God that I was at Trinity L.C in Topeka from 2012 to 2016.

Thank you Trinity Lutheran Church for your ongoing support to the Companion Synod, ELC-PNG.

Mamy Ranaivoson, MD. MDiv.



Clara is our youngest daughter. She was born in Papua New Guinea in 1992.