

The Askins in Asia



The NSM Model

This coming summer, a number of missionaries will be coming home to reconnect with supporters or new missionaries will be going to build support networks. As a reminder of what an NSM missionary is and does, here's an article I wrote to help congregations understand the NSM model:

A Network Supported Missionary (NSM) depends on a network of individuals, families, and congregations for support. Financial support forms an important part of this support, but prayer support, regular notes, and even visits from supporters help missionaries too.

When the NSM missionary begins employment, he or she begins receiving salary and benefits from the LCMS and starts raising support. That support will eventually cover those expenses as well as the upcoming expenses in the field.

The LCMS helps missionaries build the network, through the Mission Advancement and Missionary Services offices. They help the missionary find congregations and prepare presentations to raise awareness and build the network.

Both before and after deployment, the missionary strengthens the network through regular contact with supporters by newsletters, thank you cards, and sometimes video conferences.

Individuals, families, and congregations create the network and support the missionary financially in one of two ways through one-time gifts and recurring gifts. A healthy network will include both kinds of gifts, and have recurring support to support the work on the field. The network also supports the missionary with prayer and encouragement.

Don't We Already Support Synod?

Many congregations already send financial support to the district and to the Synod. You might be asking, "What happens with all the money that congregations send into Synod?" (For a detailed breakdown, visit lcms.org.)

In previous years, God blessed the LCMS with the resources and ability to provide for missionaries through unrestricted support. However, in the early 2000s, unrestricted giving to the LCMS dramatically declined, and we had to recall many missionaries.

Since the Synod could not support missionaries from unrestricted funds, mission advancement and the Office of International Mission (then World Mission) looked for ways to send missionaries into the harvest. The NSM model was the result.

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February the Short Month

—by Eliza

After the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year, and Chinese, one is sometimes ready to just be still. The short month of February was that here. Actually as I type this, I have a hard time even remembering February because it had routine and days were similar flowing one to the next. I do know we were all home, and that was good, very good.

Both adults and children of the family started learning the language more than just a single word from the streets. Roy and I have found a teacher showing us how to read, write, hear, and speak a few characters in each lesson. We have to watch our competitiveness as we race to respond to the instructor's questions.

The children have a weekly lesson with another missionary wife teaching them basic get-to-know-you phrases and words. We have also had a play and learn time with some other friends. The other mother speaks the language as the children play and try to practice the vocabulary throughout the week.

We've continued with schoolwork adding another reader to the ranks. Some subjects we do all together while at other times children work independently. And to help encourage our readers will also hosted a children's book club again. The children discussed *A Grain of Rice*. They will discuss *Nate the Great* for March. We will also pen pal with a children's book club in Texas.

Piano continues to progress as well. But it is not all work and no play. As the temperature has been mild and it hasn't been rainy, we've gone to the park most afternoons. The park has also been a classroom of meeting people and learning about them. There was also the lesson in playground mat repair that our children intently watched as the man did the work. Home and away are both great for learning.

February was too short that is for sure. No sooner did it begin than it ended turning our eight year old nine. They grow up too fast. Thanks be to God for the time we have with them.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Roy S. Askins, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Askins-Hong Kong" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/givenow/askins. To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438.

Contact us at roy.askins@lcmsintl.org.

For Your Prayers

In your prayers, please keep these things in mind:

- For missionaries still building support networks
- For the Asia region as the search continues for a regional director and regional business manager

NSM cont. from first page:

Stronger Support

The model certainly brings joys and struggles. The initial phase of support raising and home service trips to reconnect with supporters often overwhelm missionaries. Maintaining and strengthening the network while deployed also takes effort and time.

However, the Network Supported Missionary has stronger support. They do not depend on donations primarily from one source, but a distributed network of supporters giving at many different levels.

The congregation also benefits. Each congregation that supports a missionary knows who and what they support. They know where the missionary is; they pray for him or her; they receive regular updates on this work. Some congregations even visit missionaries in the field.

For more information, visit my website: askinsinasia.com.

Thank You

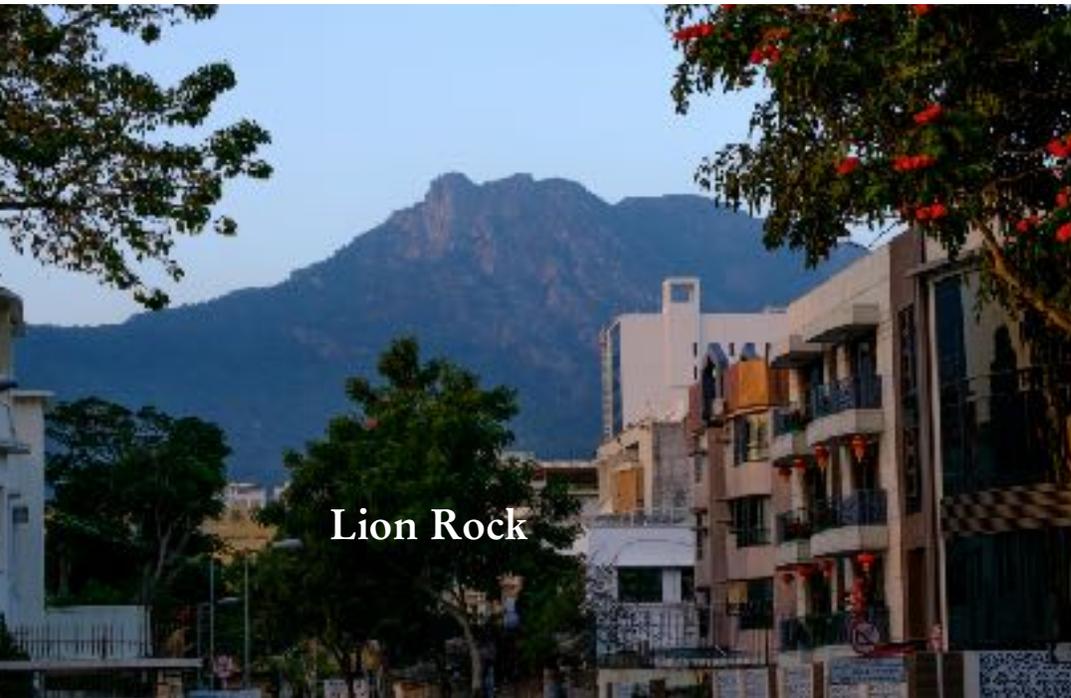
To all of you who are supporting us in so many and various ways, thank you.

For your prayers, thank you. For your financial support, thank you. For your notes and thoughts, thank you.

—The Askins

A Page of Pictures

Enjoy these pictures from the last month. For more, visit our website: askinsinasia.com.



Lion Rock



Super

Practicing Piano

Holding Baby

and a dragon!

