

# The Askins in Asia



## Supporting Our Partners

Mission work has changed. When the mission societies of the 19th century called people to support mission work, missionaries were encountering new cultures and preaching and teaching the Gospel directly.

Through their proclamation, God called, gathered, and enlightened His saints. As they preached Law and Gospel, their listeners heard and some were convicted of their sin and their need for Christ. They received further instruction, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

In other words, missionaries formed congregations and church bodies so the proclamation of the Gospel might continue.

This puts the modern mission into a unique circumstance; now, we have a partner church in many if not most of the countries in which we work.

For example, as I am writing this right now, I am listening to Rev. Dr. Michael Paul and Rev. Alex Wu record a podcast episode on the fifth and sixth commandments in Mandarin for their new podcast, the Chinese Lutheran.

More people speak Mandarin than any other language in the world. Being able to record and provide Lutheran teaching on the catechism provides us the possibility of reaching billions of people with the message of the Gospel throughout the world.

In my role, as it is with many missionaries, I do not directly preach the Gospel to the unchurched. But that does not mean the Gospel is no longer being preached through my work! On the contrary, the proclamation of the Gospel is often more effective when we build up and support our partner churches rather than doing it ourselves.

### **Modern mission work must often take a supportive role.**

Consider this example: A local Chinese pastor who knows Mandarin and has grown up in Chinese culture knows the needs and struggles and trials of his people in a way that a foreigner will never be able to match.

It doesn't mean the Gospel can't be preached by a foreigner; the existence of the significant number of international church bodies is proof of that fact.

But we can multiply the effect of their witness if we support them and provide them the tools necessary to preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments faithfully within their own context.

## April's Fool is Language

— by Eliza

### April's Fool is Language

From a young age we learn and acquire language; we have to. It is how we communicate our needs and wants. We are silly and foolish as we stumble to pronounce and yearn to be understood. But we press forward, and we learn how language works. Without any effort we learn to hear and speak our first language as it is all around us. It takes effort and might even be hard work to read and write that first language. For some the work does not end there as they attempt to learn or acquire another one, two, or more languages.

I fortunately attended a grade school that began teaching Spanish in kindergarten. I continued those studies through high school and tested out of the first level of college Spanish classes. Then, I continued those studies to earn a minor degree in Spanish. I had the chance to test those skills with a short trip to Spain in each high school and college. There were many foolish conjugations, mispronunciations, etc. as I went along. I regrettably and foolishly did not however pass that language to my children.

I focused and still do on teaching my children how to speak, listen, read, and write in English. It is one of the most difficult and rewarding tasks I have ever been given and succeeded at completing. The task is not complete as I still have three more children I will put through Mom Phonics. But, I see the fruits daily as the older ones read to the younger ones. I also see the gaps and mistakes, but we continue to work through those because wise fools press on.

And now, we all at varying levels are attempting a new language. And as we practice we make foolish mistakes. We foolishly bob and sway our heads or move our hands, using those motions as cues for the correct tone to express the word we mean.

I am grateful that though we may make fools of ourselves learning a new language, Christ does not see us as fools. He sees us as forgiven, righteous children. He knows what we mean even when we choose the wrong tone, verb conjugation, or vocabulary word. He gives us the ears to hear that we may know His love and the lips to speak that we might share His gospel. As St. Paul declares, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Even fools receive grace.

✠ *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](http://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](mailto: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

## 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

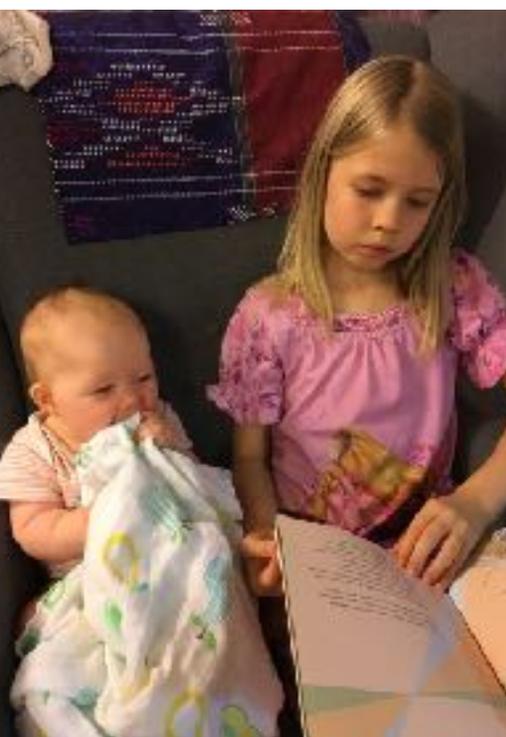
Enjoy these pictures from the last month. For more, visit our website: [askinsinasia.com](http://askinsinasia.com).



Presenting on the Mission Priorities in the Philippines



Making Friends on Bird Street



Reading to the little sister



Suited Up



Stealing my sister's towel



**Pray for**  
**REV. ROY AND ELIZA ASKINS**  
 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS  
 SERVING IN THE ASIA REGION



Rev. Roy and Eliza Askins serve through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Asia, based in Hong Kong. Roy is the director of communications for the Asia region. He works with other LCMS personnel serving in this region to communicate the Gospel through social and other media outlets. He helps to share the story of what God is doing through LCMS personnel, partner church bodies and all believers, using print media, video, social media and the Internet. These resources are used to enlighten the church worldwide and encourage LCMS congregations and members to pray for and consider supporting those serving in this region and around the world.



Roy is a native Texan and his home congregation is Faith Lutheran Church, Plano, Texas. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Before serving in Asia, Roy served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Livingston, Texas (2010-2014). In his free time, he enjoys reading, hiking and camping.

Eliza was born in Watertown, Wis., where her home congregation is Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon. Before heading overseas, Eliza taught at Emmanuel St. Michael Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind. (2006-2007) and Grace Lutheran Church and School, Menomonee Falls, Wis. (2007-2008). In her free time, she enjoys reading, camping and walking. Roy and Eliza enjoy spending time with their six beautiful children – Eva Maria, Mathias, Roman, Ezekiel, Anastasia and Cornelia.

Pray for the Askins as they serve in Asia and Hong Kong and as they transition to a new country. Pray for Roy that as he serves, he remains faithful to God's Word in difficult times. Pray for the LCMS personnel serving in the Asia region. Pray the hearts of people here in the United States are moved to pray for and to financially support the Askins so they can "go with" this family on their journey of faith. Let us give thanks that the Askins family is serving in this part of the world.

- **BIRTHDAYS:** Roy – July 19, Eliza – June 30, Eva Maria – March 1, Mathias – Oct. 11, Roman – Jan. 8, Ezekiel – Nov. 11, Anastasia – Oct. 22, Cornelia – Oct. 10
- **ANNIVERSARY:** Nov. 25 • **HOME DISTRICT:** Texas

- **Pray daily for Roy and Eliza** — and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit [lcms.org/askins](http://lcms.org/askins)
- **Learn about LCMS international work** at [lcms.org/international](http://lcms.org/international)
- **Support and adopt an international worker.** Call 888-930-4438.

LEARN • PRAY • GIVE • TELL • SEND • GO • CELEBRATE



**"HERE AM I... SEND ME!"**  
**MY SUPPORT OF THE LCMS THROUGH THE WORK OF:**  
**Rev. Roy and Eliza Askins**

Give securely online at [lcms.org/askins](http://lcms.org/askins) or fill out the form below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF GIFT:**

- A monthly recurring gift** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the duration of Roy and Eliza's service. (Please choose a payment method below.)
- A per-year pledge commitment** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be fulfilled:
  - monthly  quarterly  semi-annually  annually
- A special gift** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I/WI WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MY/OUR GIFTS BY:**

- Check** — Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Write **Askins-Asia Support** on memo line.
- Automatic Withdrawal** — Please include a **VOIDED ORIGINAL CHECK**.

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**QUESTIONS?** Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to [mission.giving@lcms.org](mailto:mission.giving@lcms.org).

Gifts received for LCMS international workers are deposited in an account restricted for the support of eligible international workers. Any gifts received in excess of a worker's requirement for a given year are held for that worker until needed. Should a worker's service conclude for any reason, the funds remaining in the restricted account will be transferred to one or more eligible LCMS international workers who most closely fulfill the restrictions of the original gift. With documented donor permission, a restricted gift can also be utilized to support international work budgeted by the LCMS. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Acct # **A10998-69392**