

November, 2014

The Schicks

Making the Gospel Accessible to the 38 Million People in Poland

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Our **move to Poland** included many logistical challenges to conclude our final days in the U.S.A., prepare our children for their changes, and equip us for living in Poland. Thanks to your prayers and God's help, the transition to Poland went quite smoothly considering all the changes and challenges. Some highlights are included below.

Most of our time and energy since our landing in Poland on September 17 has been concentrated on **getting settled into the culture and language**. We set up an apartment in Lublin and obtained the needed materials to be able to live, travel, learn and minister in Poland. We are still working on a few items, but the process has moved forward quickly by necessity. We have begun our language study in earnest and continues to take a majority of our time each week. But God has opened some unbelievable opportunities for ministry and witness.

We have begun to get to know some **churches in Poland** mainly in the Lublin area. Our previous contacts with Polish people in the U.S.A. and American missionaries in Poland has really helped. We are getting ready to visit other areas as the Lord opens up opportunities.

Following the 3L Plan - We are Living in Lublin, Learning the Polish Language, and Looking for Long-Term Ministry. God has provided a path before us and so we walk that path with confidence knowing that He has called us and will supply every need. Please pray as we try to balance the necessity of language studies while hoping to do more in searching for long term ministry. The Lord is putting ministry and witnessing opportunities in front of us every week. We want to be faithful in each opportunity to help others know and follow Christ.

Z Bogiem (God bless you),

Ed & Leslie Schick



Schicks at Warsaw Train Station



Schicks on a Train to Lublin

Important Upcoming Events

- > Trip to visit churches in other cities.
- > Trip to Warsaw to be with relatives and celebrate Christmas. December 23-31
- > Ryan's Boot Camp Graduation, January 23

Financial Update

All the funds for our initial year in Poland have been given or committed through June 2015. Pray that churches and donors will be faithful in their giving.

Ministry Development

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Ed's grandmother, **Martha Zwar** died shortly after we arrived. He wrote a tribute from our family since we were not able to attend the funeral. It was read by his brother Steve and so it was the best we could do to honor a grandmother who was so precious to us and lived her faith in the Lord. She was also one of our best prayer partners and supporters. This is not surprising since her mother was born and raised in Poland before coming to the U.S. It was her continued contacts with relatives in Poland that allowed us to connect with a distant cousin who has been a great aid to us. Grandma Zwar was a great matriarch in our family and a faithful servant in the Church of Christ. We hope that God will raise up more like her in our families and ministries.



Grandma with Kyle & Hannah

Language Study continues to feel like a forced march into a deep forest. But we know what's at the end and so that keeps us working every day on grammar, vocabulary and conversational skills. Our teachers are well qualified and put their heart into teaching us. The cultural and historical field trips are the icing on the cake. We would like to ask prayer for a unique opportunity that has been developing with one of our language teachers. This particular teacher has taught at the school for a long time, and as one of the missionary wives said, has taught Polish to several missionaries. We have this teacher for language lab only once a week and find her quite challenging. > >

The Move - One of the hardest parts of our move to Poland was lugging double suitcases around airports, parking lots and then the train! What a crazy trip it was. Due a misunderstanding about train car numbers, we got on the wrong car. It may not have mattered because the Friday afternoon trains seemed to be all over-booked anyway. So we clogged the only narrow aisle on our train with our luggage and stood almost entirely for the 2.5 hour ride to Lublin.



Our New Dining Room

Needless to say a friendly Pole who knew English reached out to us to give advice and share a little about his life, career and upcoming wedding. The friendliness of the people and the Christian friends that the Lord provided before we came made our transition and some of its difficulties far easier to handle. It took some work to clean and set up our apartment but we are grateful for a low-cost, fully furnished home that was arranged in one phone call a few months ago. God has shown us his goodness!

The first week she asked us (in Polish) why we were studying Polish and we answered, "to help the churches." The second and third weeks, she had us practicing John 3:16 in Polish. Today, she announced a special assignment for us in two weeks. She said that we should pick a short passage of scripture that is easy to act out. Ed will read the passage while Leslie, Johanna and Dan (the 4th student our group) act it out. We will be presenting this to the other two groups in the Polish language school. We find this simply amazing. Please pray for wisdom in our selection of Scripture.

On the Front Lines of Reaching People for Christ

We have had many opportunities to reach out to both Poles and internationals in Lublin. We are making friends at the church we attend in Lublin. Johanna fellowships regularly with a few international students from the university while Ed and Leslie have gotten to know other folks both old and young. We prefer not to use an English translator during the services so we can concentrate on Polish but that means we are still somewhat in the dark as to particulars. We have good helpers who answer questions and give us summaries along with important information. A guest pastor who spoke at our church invited us to visit his ministry in nearby Chelm. He has been a church planter over the years and seeks to develop growing churches with a strong outreach.



Cemetery Memorial in Kazimierz Dolny (This Jewish cemetery was almost entirely destroyed by the Germans in WWII. The Germans had used the Jewish tombstones to build their headquarters. This monument was built using recovered tombstones.)

Prayer and Praise Items

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. Praise for a good transition to Poland.
2. Praise for God's supply for the various needs of our children.
3. Need a student residency permit for our family to stay in Poland until July 2015.
4. Praise the Lord for very few major problems. Minor problems have been quickly remedied. For example, we have each had a turn at seasonal colds which only required rest and non-prescription medicine.
5. Praise God for being able to find a good Polish Bible for a prayer partner's relative.
6. For the Britski's, a Polish family whose father passed away suddenly a few weeks ago. Their daughter has helped us stateside and their son is assisting us in Lublin.
7. God gave Johanna some good friends as soon as we arrived. (So her "social life" didn't miss a beat. ☺ Though she still misses her stateside friends.)
8. Praise God for a new bus stop right out our back door which eliminates a 7 minute walk that would have only gotten colder as winter approaches.
9. Praise the Lord for enough current funding to focus fully on language learning and ministry.
10. We are thankful for an internet phone connected to the U.S. but it also means that we can get political calls at 1am. ☺
11. We are getting better at shopping. It takes a while to find out where all the shops and services are hidden in a city that is brand new to us. We are thankful for the prayers of our supporters and people who are fulfilling those prayers by helping us.

Family News

Quick Points on our Ever-Active Family

Marine Recruit's First Phone Call - Early in the morning on Wednesday, October 28, we got the famous "First Phone Call" from our son, Ryan who has just begun his 12 week training with the Marines at Parris Island, SC. We were grateful for our Voice-Over- Internet phone that enabled us to share those very special 30 seconds with our son. Please pray for Ryan's physical, spiritual and mental strength as he goes through this very intensive time of training at Boot Camp.

Two College Students - Annelise has begun her Senior year at Cedarville University. Please pray for her decisions following her graduation. Christian has begun his Sophomore year at Liberty University. Please pray for him as he continues his busy schedule with a full class load, competing with the Triathlon Team and working the "grave-yard shift" at the local McDonald's.

Young Couple - Kyle and Hannah as they balance school, work and church life.

How to stay in touch with the Schicks in Poland:

Our contact information is included in every prayer letter. Our U.S. address is Ed's parents' home. They do forward some mail but it does take a few weeks to reach us. International mail and packages can reach us usually in a week. Our address in Poland is:

Żywiecka 17
20-870 Lublin
POLAND

Make sure it is clearly marked for the SCHICKS since we share this address with our landlord. > >

Contact Info

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If you would like to change your subscription or unsubscribe, please write or call us. If you would like to receive this letter in another format or by e-mail please let us know.

You can also reach us using our Ohio phone number (Area Code 330) listed to the right, as long as you call before 3:00pm (EST). The cost of calling this number is the same as if you were calling any other Ohio phone number. We are six hours ahead of most of you so we would rather take calls during our waking hours. ☺ Of course e-mail continues to be a fast, easy, low cost way to keep in touch. We will do our best to regularly put out our prayer letters and internet updates. If you have any questions for us or about our ministry, don't hesitate to call or write. We appreciate each one of our partners.