

October 2017

The Schicks

Making the Gospel Accessible
to the 38 Million People in Poland

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

"No battle plan ever survives first contact with the enemy." This is a quote based on the military teachings of Helmuth Karl Bernhard Graf von Moltke, Chief of Staff of the Prussian Forces (1857 - 1871). During our long pre-field ministry and even into our early ministry here in Poland, we have drawn and redrawn "battle plans" for what we will be doing once language study is not such a high priority. Since we will soon move through this transition, we are starting to make definite plans. One of those plans, to work with Polish pastors, has a major impediment standing in its way. Please read below as to what that impediment is and how God might help us move past it. You may eventually find yourself moved by God's leading to help in overcoming one of the greatest ministry needs here. We are grateful to those who are providing the prayers and support that allow us to be on the front lines here Poland.

Yours for Christ,

Ed & Leslie Schick

Short Sermon Opportunity

Ed has begun to use the "Short Sermon" in our Sunday morning church services to teach the Gospel. Since churches here in Poland do not have adult Sunday School classes per se; instead they have "short sermons" before the main sermon that serves in much the same way. Like American Sunday School, these are wonderful opportunities to dig deeper into God's Word with more discussion and interaction. Ed has been teaching through the Story of Hope in Polish using the beautiful pictures that are included with this powerful resource. Thanks to his increased ability in the language and the Polish text that is available from the translation project, Ed is able to make this his first foray into fully Polish ministry! Please pray that God will use His Word to help our congregation gain a new appreciation for and a deeper understanding of God's eternal plan of salvation that can bless them and those with whom they share it.



A recent Baptism



Warsaw Seminary and Conference Center



Story 12 Abraham and Isaac

The Need for More Polish Baptist Pastors and Church Planters

It is easy and common for missionaries to come to a mission field with assumptions about what is already developed or available. Since there are plenty of pastors seeking new ministries in the U.S. it would seem reasonable that the same condition exists in Poland. IT DOESN'T! The sad reality is that there are very few trained and qualified pastors that become available each year. This has resulted in a large number of churches which do not have a pastor serving their congregation. So our plan to team up with a new pastor to plant a church makes no sense if there are no new pastors available. We have always planned extensive disciple training as the God-designed foundation for our outreach ministries, but this national lack of ministry leaders is a much greater need.

Here are our preliminary plans to meet this need. Pastor Henryk has been discussing with Ed ways to develop more ministry leaders from within the Baptist churches here in Poland. Beginning from the junior high level on up to the young adult level, pastors would identify potential church leaders and nurture their spiritual development and ministry skills. They will use events and projects to help build up these future leaders. Some will train at the seminary and do internships in local churches. When their training is complete, they will form teams to set out to build up small churches and plant new ones. This plan is ambitious and is slated to be presented at a pastor's conference this month. We are hoping most Polish pastors will get involved.

Please pray for this need in Poland as we seek great improvement in this area. We will be writing more about this need in our upcoming letters. There are ways you can become directly involved in meeting this need. (Hint: Not all the help will be financial. Pray and listen for what God tells you to do.)

Ladies' Fall Conference

The first weekend in October is a favorite weekend for many of the ladies in the Christian Baptist Churches here in Poland, because it is time for our Annual Women's Conference in Warsaw. The conference serves not only to give ladies an opportunity to get away in the beautiful, relaxing setting of the Baptist Seminary Campus in Warsaw, but it is also an opportunity to study God's Word, centering on topics that directly affect us as women. Additionally, it is a wonderful time to visit with and encourage one another as ladies. Deep friendships have been built during the ladies' conferences over the years, and for many, the Annual Women's Conference is the one time of the year when we can spend quality time with our friends from other parts of Poland. During the Saturday night testimony time, Leslie was able to share how God had so amazingly answered our prayers in regard to Ryan's healing and had so graciously assured us of his presence during those very difficult months.

This year's theme of the conference was Jesus is the Source of My Life. While we may start out well in our Christian lives in coming to Christ for salvation; too often we turn to other rivers - polluted, stagnate waters, in order to quench our thirst. Only Christ can give true satisfaction. From the beginning to the end, He is the true source of our lives.



Ladies Conference October, 2017

Update on Ryan

Ryan's voice and airway situation is very complicated and unique. Since his throat surgery in July, Ryan's airway "is significantly better, but far from perfect." Ryan doesn't expect to get everything back to his pre-accident condition, but he would like to be able to re-qualify for the military - which requires running (and breathing). There is still some scar tissue around his vocal cords. A second surgery to remove that scar tissue may be more risky and require a trach for a short time during the healing process.

In the meantime, Ryan has been making tremendous progress in his speech therapies. During a recent phone conversation, he announced, "Guess what Dad?! You can hear me, but I'm not even using my microphone!" Because he has been making such good progress in his therapies, Ryan will not be having another appointment with the Complex Airway specialist at Johns Hopkins until after those therapies are completed in December. During this time, the doctor has promised to do more research into further options for Ryan. Please pray for wisdom for all of us.

Prayer and Praise Items

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. Ed's Bible lesson every Sunday morning. For those of you with a copy of the Story of Hope, he is teaching story #5 (Beginning of Human Sin).
2. Ed & Leslie are team teaching English Bible lessons with a family. Ed teaches the SOH and Leslie teaches the English.
3. Story of Hope Translation Project - reviewing stage.
4. Ed is taking advanced Polish grammar lessons Monday through Friday mornings at a local university. Pray for his classmates who are from around the world and most are not believers. Leslie has three tutoring sessions each week at a local language school.
5. Our fluency in Polish so we can effectively minister to the Polish people.
6. The training of 200 future ministry leaders in Poland.
7. Ryan's rehabilitation program near the VA hospital in Richmond, VA which goes to the middle of December. Pray also for Dr. Hillel, the throat specialist at Johns Hopkins.
8. For our children as they study, work and follow God's path and plan for their lives.

God has been using Ryan's story. The Story of Hope booklet and the pictures from The Bible's Big Story put out by Good Soil Evangelism is not only something that we have used in ministry, but also something that we used extensively with Ryan during his time of recovery. Recently, Good Soil Evangelism put out a blog that tells [Ryan's Story](#).

A number of months ago, we told you that PBS was making a documentary on the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Unit in Richmond and that Ryan was going to be one of the featured patients. They have completed it and here is the link for the [video](#).

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Johanna's First Marathon