

THE SCHICKS

MAKING THE BLESSING OF THE GOSPEL
ACCESSIBLE TO THE 38 MILLION PEOPLE IN POLAND

Dear Prayer Partners,

We want to wish you and yours the greatest of Christmas celebrations. It is an amazing thing to know that so many people around the world remember the coming of God in human flesh 2,000 years ago with decorations, concerts, festivals and church services. We also know that Christ is no longer here. His physical presence left after a few decades. He left his Holy Spirit to live in believe in his absence. That makes each of us agents for Christ as we wait for his soon return. As an agent for Christmas, what will you do to make sure your neighbor clearly knows why Christ came to earth?

Please read further about the opportunities we have used to share Christ with Polish people in Poland and in the US.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

Ed + Leslie Schick

Plans for Our Next Stage of Ministry

Please continue to pray for us as we seek God's direction for the location of our next stage of ministry, beginning this summer, just after we return from our furlough. In our last prayer letter, we mentioned 2 potential locations. However, after a time of prayer, considering our gifts, strengths and abilities, we discovered that neither one of those ministry configurations would have been a good match for us. So, we went back to "square one," searching through each of the 122 existing Baptist Churches and Ministry Points in Poland. To our daily time of prayer and Bible study as a couple, we added a time for ministry discovery. Which ones would our match our criteria for a potential ministry location? Every day we would research and pray for a church. As we did this seemingly long and arduous task, it enabled us to redefine and reset our criteria. We would like to partner with a young Polish pastor, serving solo in a new and under-developed church that demonstrates an energy or desire to grow. By applying these criteria, we were able to narrow down our search to 14 churches. For 14 more days, we researched one of the remaining 14 churches, learning a little about their focus and needs. Through this activity, we have been able to narrow down the list to 2 possible locations. Our next step will be to contact the pastors of these 2 churches and set up visits to the churches in order to further determine the Lord's leading and their willingness for us to come.

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Story of Hope Great Review

As a conclusion to his weekly lessons from the Story of Hope, Ed led our church in a "Grand Review." Using posters on the walls, small cards depicting the 100 Bible stories, and 8 hand-held posters illustrating the Bridge to Life gospel illustration, Ed tested not only their knowledge of the Gospel, but also their ability to share it with others.

We were encouraged by the positive response. Many asked for copies of the Story of Hope in Polish to share with their unsaved friends and neighbors. One lady is using the Story of Hope in a jail ministry with 12 other ladies. Some asked for the Story of Hope in other languages - including Portuguese and Bulgarian (a copy of which just recently arrived from the States).

"What's the next translation project?" was the other common response to our completion of the Story of Hope. Our next translation project will be the Story of Hope's companion workbook: The Way to Joy. While the Story of Hope is a workbook designed for evangelistic Bible studies, The Way to Joy is intended to be used as a follow-up discipleship study for new believers.

Polish Bibles for America

The U.S. has always lacked a good supply source of Polish Bibles. Through some of your special gifts, we have been able to make our own supply available through Amazon. Our daughter, Johanna, is running the Amazon account and our son, Kyle, is storing and shipping the Bibles as the orders come in. We quickly sold out of our initial stock of Bibles, but there are two more packages currently in route to America. Please pray that God will speed the slow boat carrying this precious cargo to America.

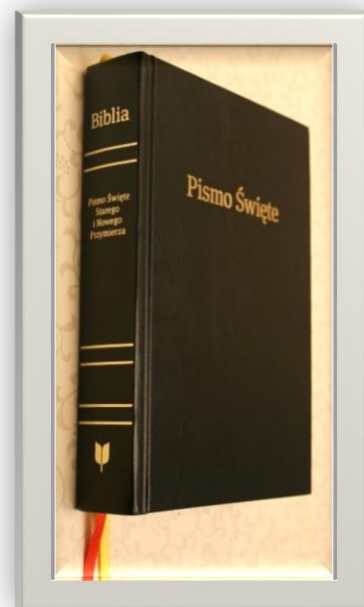
With the purchase of this last set of Bibles, our literature fund has been depleted. We will need additional funds to resupply the next set of Bibles after this one is sold out. If you would like to contribute to this project, simply designate your gift, "Literature Fund." We are very excited that we, as a team, can provide a steady supply of good Bibles to the Polish speaking people who need and read them in the US.



Great review of "Story of Hope"



Church Member Explains Stories from "Historia Nadziei"



Polish Bible now Available on Amazon.com

Helping Believers to be On Mission through Prayer

People with a purpose, who are on mission for God, pray and expect God to do great things. Empty jars are mentioned a number of times in the Scripture especially in connection with needs and prayer (see 1 Kings 17, 2 Kings 4). In a recent sermon series Ed used empty fruit jars, to illustrate an important truth: "If we don't pray and expect God's blessings, it's unlikely that we'll receive them." Ed invited people to write out some of their prayer requests - both personal and for the ministry of our church. They placed their requests in the jars and Ed committed to pray along with them for these needs. It has been great to see how God has been answering many of these prayers.



Prayer Jar

On another Sunday, following the "Story of Hope's Great Review", Ed again used empty jars. This time, he asked the people to write down the names of those for whom they were praying and planning to share the Gospel. This time, the jar was filled with 45 separate notes, with the names a total of 150 people listed! One person listed 21 people! Please join with us in praying for the believers at Lublin Baptist, that they will fulfill the mission God has called them to. Pray that they will have the skill and courage to clearly explain God's plan to rescue people from their sin and the soon coming Judgment. Pray for the influence of the Gospel and its continued impact throughout Poland and beyond.

On Radio: Reading Through the Bible

This past week, we participated in Chelm Baptist Church's Annual Week of Reading through the Bible. From early in the morning, until late at night participants from the church and community read all the books of the Bible. Each reader was assigned a time and 3 chapters which they read out loud into a microphone for sound in the auditorium and to be broadcasted on the local radio station. Together we read through the Bible in a week. This event was open to the community and has been well received by the them over the last 5 years. It is a simple, but wonderful means to focus on God's Word in the beginning of the Christmas season.



Ed Reading from the Polish Bible

Did you know?

In the Battle of Warsaw in 1920, when the reconstituted Republic of Poland was not quite two years old, the Soviets attacked Poland, seeking to regain the Polish lands for themselves and Communism. One of the winning strategies used by the Polish military radio-telegraphers was to frustrate Soviet communication by reading the Bible on the same wavelength used by the Soviet commander.



Leslie Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. Please pray for guidance as we seek the Lord’s direction for the second stage of our ministry in Poland.
2. Please pray for the distribution and effective use of the Story of Hope. Please pray for the translation of The Way to Joy.
3. Please pray for the speedy arrival to the US of the two packages containing Polish Bibles as well as one package containing the Polish Story of Hope.
4. Pray for the influence of the Gospel that it will continue to expand throughout Poland and beyond. Pray for evangelical churches including 122 Baptist church ministries.
5. Please pray for us as we schedule meetings for our upcoming furlough. Pray that we will be able to gain new supporting individuals and churches, so that we can return to Poland with all the funds we need.
6. Praise the Lord, both Christian and DJ were recently offered jobs in their professional fields: Christian as a copywriter at Keyweb in Richmond, VA and DJ as a lawyer at Brock & Scott in Winston-Salem, NC. Annelise, DJ and little Joseph will be moving to NC on Jan 1st.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 26 - Arrival in Berwyn Heights, MD
- April 28 - Hope Community Baptist Church, Sterling Heights, MI
- May 5 - Harmony Baptist Church, New Castle, PA
- May 8 - Young at Heart Group, Heartland CBC, Medina, OH
- May 11 - Johanna’s graduation from Liberty University
- May 19 - Global Missions Sunday, Heartland CBC, Medina, OH
- May 26 - Grace Baptist Church, Brunswick, OH
- June 2 - Calvary Baptist Church, Jersey Shore, PA
- June 9 - First Baptist Church, Hollisterville, PA
- June 10 - July 12 (Mon - Friday) - Crossroads Camp, Lowesville, VA
- July 24 - Return to Poland

Financial Summary

Monthly Support	79%	Car Fund (\$7,200) Need	\$2,800
Monthly Need	\$1,100	Literature Fund (\$0) Need	\$1,000
Next 15 Months	\$14,200		

We appreciate the extra gifts that were given last month. They really helped with larger than normal expenses due to replenishing our stock of Bibles, Gospel literature, evangelistic tools and airfare for our furlough. We will still need to expand our partnership base to meet our general needs along with the car fund and future translation projects.



"Historia Nadziei" will Soon be Available at Good Soil Evangelism