

# THE SCHICKS

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

## A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

Partnerships are very important to us as missionaries. We could not fulfill our mission for Christ well without the help given to us by 50 supporters and 168 prayer partners. We in turn provide a service to them in keeping them informed about Christ's work in the world and helping them fulfill their part in the Great Commission by sending us to Poland. Our partners in Poland work with us in a similar way. We help them improve and expand their ministries while they help us in language learning, acculturation and many practical needs. Pastor Marek is a good example of partnership: He is caring for our car and apartment in Poland while we work to get him permission from an American publisher to reprint a Polish New Testament. Again, we wish to say thank-you to the many who have aided us during our furlough and for those who help with our practical needs in the US while we serve in Poland.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

*Ed & Leslie Schick*

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## “Word of Life” New Testament

Shortly before our return to the States, our pastor in Warsaw sat down with us to discuss a need he had from a Christian Bible publisher, Biblica. He needed permission to reprint a Polish New Testament that he found very effective in reaching unevangelized families with disabled children. Ed has been negotiating with Biblica to produce an agreement to reprint this legacy text. He has run into a few hurdles along the way and the agreement still has not been finalized. Please pray that this evangelistic tool will make it into the hands of willing workers in Poland. We have yet to find (or produce) a print file that is necessary to make this happen.

## Updates on our Bible Group

We have had few opportunities to interact with the Bible group even while in the US. We joined with them via a video call. It was so great to interact with them and find out how they were doing while sharing about our lives and furlough as well. They are studying the book of Acts and are eagerly tackling many of the spiritual principles and their implications. For instance: Which of the following things do people need more: money, health or the Gospel? Or, Should we obey government officials

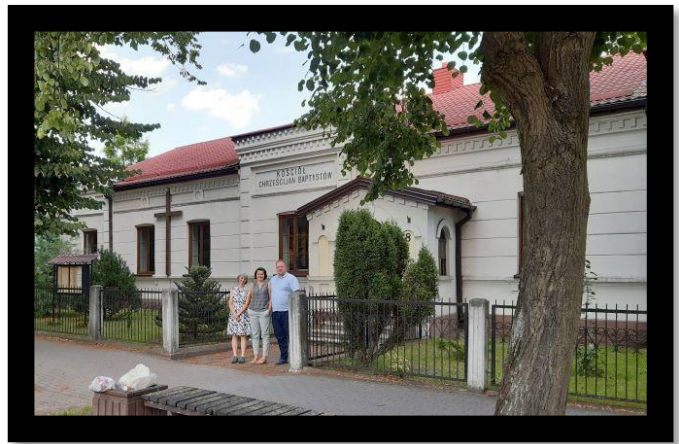


*Słowo Życia*  
(Word of Life) NT

when they restrict our ministry? Please pray for the members of this group to grow in their understanding of Christ and His plan for them. For most Polish adults, it takes 5-10 years of exposure to the Gospel before they make a clear and firm commitment to Christ.

## Zelów Church Needs

As many of you know, the Blisko Boga Church in Warsaw is supporting a small church in the town of Zelów. Since most of the Polish population is in the smaller towns and villages, it is vitally important that strong evangelical ministries are established in them with the goal that anyone in Poland can easily reach an evangelical church.



*Leslie, Ania and Pastor Grzegorz*

## Brightening Zelów's Light

The church in Zelów was established long ago but had dwindled to a handful of people. Now with a new Pastor installed, they have renewed their efforts in reaching their community and nearby villages with the Gospel of Christ. They have a number of material issues standing in the way of normal ministry function.

- 1. Heating System in Disrepair** - The first obstacle was to totally renovate their heating system in order to efficiently heat the sanctuary. Before the pastor came, this small group was meeting in an upstairs room because they couldn't afford to heat the whole auditorium. The heating system was antiquated and required close attention to keep it going.
- 2. In Need of Insulation** - The second need is to finish insulating the front of the building to keep heating costs down. The city will not let them modify the facade of the building so a special method must be used on the front wall.
- 3. Bathrooms in Poor Condition** - When we visited this church one Sunday, the bathrooms were clean, basically functional, but in very poor condition generally. They need a full renovation.
- 4. Needs for the Church Grounds** - The church grounds go a ways behind the church building and include grass areas that can be used for outdoor fellowship, youth meetings and recreation. They wish to purchase a used mower to make the grounds usable.

## Pulling Teens Out of "Acid Park"

In connection with this, the pastor has a special vision to reach the young people of this community. Many of them hang out at the local park doing what most teens do. Some engage in very unhealthy activities including alcohol and even drugs. The townspeople have labeled this spot "Acid Park." Pastor Grzegorz would like to empty this place by inviting young people to regularly participate in activities that are not only safer and healthier, but also will bring the greatest life blessings through the Gospel. See our financial report for specifics on how you can help Pastor Gregorz and the congregation at Zelów to make progress in this spiritually needy area.

## Spiritual Battles - Strong Soldiers

Spiritual battles are an ongoing part of any ministry that is sincerely and powerfully seeking to fulfill Christ's mission in the world today. Normally we describe these battles in dramatic ways using vague terminology that seems to always point to some nefarious force out there

somewhere that manages to regularly cause detrimental effects on our ministries. As I (Ed) see it, the real problems are closer to home and involve day to day unfaithfulness to Christ and His plan for us. Wasting time, neglecting time with God, chasing “interesting” topics or people on the internet, conflicts resulting from highly selfish values and behaviors, not fulfilling our obligations to others, sloppy work, tardiness and a host of other weaknesses, bad habits and sins, regularly drag down team members and teams even before we count the damage done by outside, hostile enemy forces. Years ago, when I was seeking to rebuild our ministry because of damage like this, I concluded that fruitful ministry, by necessity, must be protected from these detrimental behaviors and this can only come from understanding, embracing and living out God’s basic plan for our lives. This plan includes the Gospel which redeems us from the problem of sin and gives us power to live without sin and its devastating effects. This plan includes:



*Darla and Leslie at  
Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse*

- the Gospel which redeems us from the problem of sin and gives us power to live without sin and its devastating effects.
- discipleship which are the behaviors modeled by Christ that we must practice each day.
- knowing our mission and fervently exerting ourselves in working towards the goals Christ has for us.

If you recognized in this paragraph principles from the book of Philippians, it’s because that is our Time with God topic for this month. Even while Paul was imprisoned, he was a strong soldier for Christ and urged others to support him and the cause of Christ. He asked the Philippians to have a mature view of life and sacrifice all to serve the One who saved us and will resurrect us on the last day. The low number of strong soldiers for Christ is why our churches are not bigger, stronger and shining a brighter light into our communities, country and the world. If you would like to join us in training to become and stay a strong soldier, let us know. Our Mission Training and Action Groups (MTAG) are designed to help believers find and fulfill the plan Christ has for us to improve our ministry teams and be a beacon in this ever-darkening world.

## **Covid19 Impact on Poland**

In the Spring of 2020, Poland went through three successive periods of restriction, each more oppressive than the first. The last left residents with the requirement that they justify any reason for being outside. Small businesses were setback and children had to take classes online. Many suffered from isolation and depression. The government was barely able to justify the internal lockdowns since there were very few cases of Covid19 in the country. It was able to convince people that these measures were necessary to keep Poland from becoming another northern Italy or New York City. After Easter they finally started lifting the bans but required masks as a sign of citizen cooperation. Church members slowly got over their fears to come back to the major cities after hiding out with relatives in the smaller towns and villages. By September our church was nearly back to normal and we even attended a wedding before heading to the U.S. for furlough for a few weddings of our own.

However, in the Fall of 2020, Covid19 has developed into a noticeable wave of illness and has resulted in medical personnel working long hours to take care of the sick. Like everyone

else, they are hoping for a vaccine to put a stop to the waves of illness and new treatments to curb the number of excess deaths. This is a time when people need to be pointed to Christ who guarantees eternal life no matter what plague or tragedy may befall us. Please pray that we will skillfully assuage the fears of unbelievers by using dependable promises from God's Word.

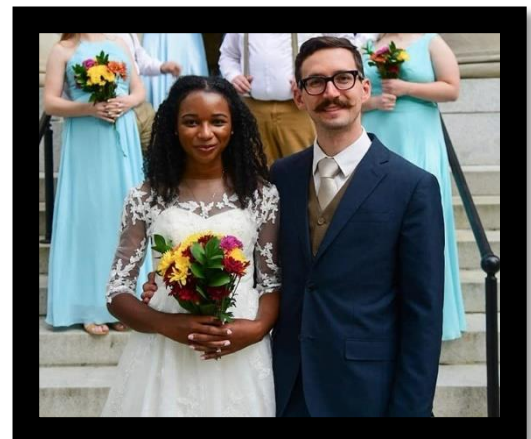
## Furlough Visits and Travels

Our time in the US is fast drawing to a close. We made it a priority to spend quality time with precious loved ones. We are grateful for the time we were able to spend with each and every one. Our travels took us from Berwyn Heights, MD to Richmond, VA; from Winston Salem, NC to Salem, SC. We spent almost a month in Florida visiting friends and relatives in Port Orange, Port St. Lucie, Boynton Beach, and Sarasota. Then we took the trek northward to Frederick MD, Cleveland, OH, Valparaiso, IN and finally to Ray, MI. We gave two major church presentations and many reports to pastors and other partners. We also had to move our belongings (mostly clothes) back to Ed's parents' home in Ray, MI. They have cared for our furlough and long-term storage for many years. Our son Ryan takes care of our mail since our legal address is still in Richmond, VA. We greatly appreciate those who have cared for our needs in the US while we live in Poland. At the end of our furlough, we will sell our Jeep ('14) and utility trailer ('90) that served us on many moves and trips. After the New Year, we will make our final trek back to Washington DC before our flight back to Poland. Thank you to all who gave us housing, made our travels feasible, and blessed us along the way. We love you dearly.

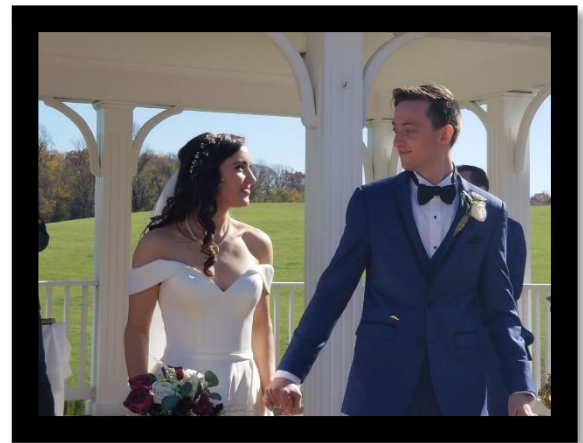
## Wedding Furlough 2020

For us as parents, it is both a privilege and a source of great joy to celebrate with our children as they exchange wedding vows with other young believers in Christ. This Fall, we had this blessing times two, and so it is our pleasure to introduce the two, newest branches of our family tree:

- Christian and Nishon Schick were married on Sept 19th in Richmond, VA
- Christian is a copywriter at a web design company.
- Nishon provides tech support for Capital One.
- Tyler and Johanna Homon were married on November 7th in Frederick, MD.
- Tyler is a salesman for Comcast Xfinity.
- Johanna is a provider relations analyst for United Health Group.



*Nishon & Christian*



*Johanna & Tyler*

We pray that God will continue to bless and guide them on their life-long journeys together.



## Running Mishap

Leslie managed to sprain her ankle "real good" on a run one beautiful, sunny day this Fall. She spent a couple of weeks hobbling around on crutches, and the bruising and swelling was quite dramatic. However, we were thankful that nothing was broken, and she was able to comfortably walk down the aisle three weeks later at Johanna's wedding. We are thankful for good health and good health care.

## Prayer Card 2020

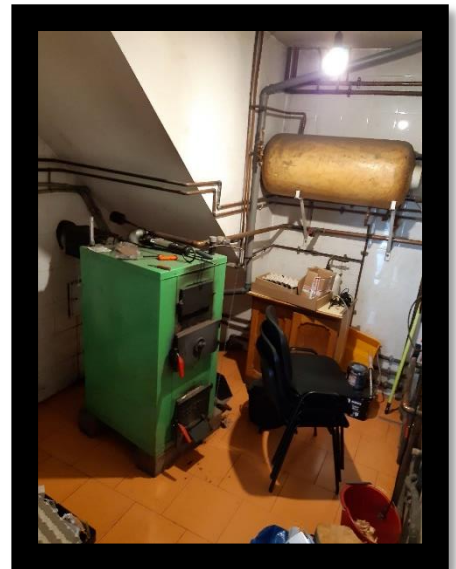
Our new prayer cards are hot off the press, with updated pictures and fresh information. If you would like one, please email us at: [s2p@edschick.com](mailto:s2p@edschick.com). We would be more than happy to send you as many as you need for yourself and maybe someone else who would like to know about our ministry.



## PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

*On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God*

1. **Flight to Poland** (January 9) - That there will be no changes and we can adjust to jet lag quickly.
2. **Good Health** – Praise for general good health and health services. Prayer for full healing and strengthening for Leslie's foot and some eye care for Ed.
3. **Legal Documentation** – In the new year we will need: resident cards, proof of residency in Warsaw and change in car registration. What seems so simple at first can become very complicated. However, it is also a great opportunity to learn more language skills and to be a witness to new people.
4. **Translation Projects** - Continuation and completion of "Way to Joy" and "Peacemaker" projects as well as the reprint of "Word of Life" New Testament.
5. **Strong Soldiers for Christ** - For the willingness of people to become fully committed to Christ and His mission to make us like Him and get the Good News to everyone in our community.
6. **Adult Children and Their Families** - To grow and mature in their new careers and homes.
7. **Ryan's Career Goals and Housing** - We praise God that Ryan has progressed so well and is taking a full load of classes. He plans to graduate in May of 2021 and begin a career in engineering as a draftsman. He also needs a new housing plan sometime in the New Year.
8. **Zelów Church** - That God would give them a spirit of peace and unity as they work for the growth of their church. For the material needs that would facilitate their meetings and ministries.



*Old Wood Fiber Brick  
Boiler Heating System*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly Support           96%  
Monthly Need            \$250  
Church Growth Fund \$5,400

### Zelów Church Needs

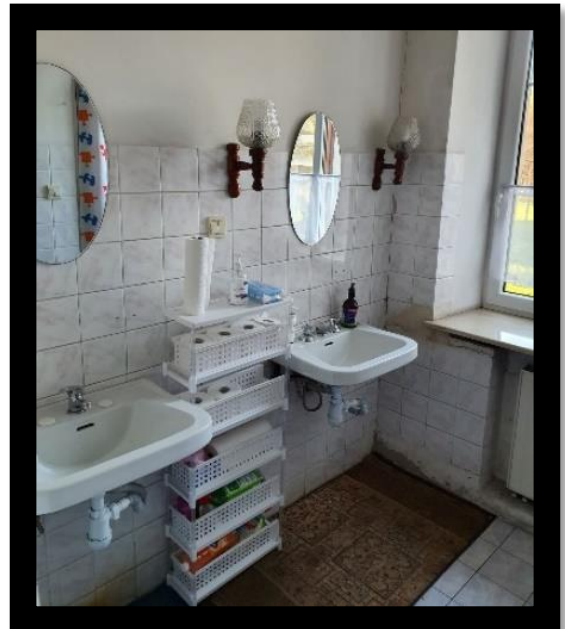
Heating System - Funded  
Wall Insulation - \$5,300  
Sound system - \$1,500  
Mower (used) - \$1,100  
Bathrooms - \$2,000



*Zelów Church Auditorium*



*Church Sound System*



*Church Restroom*