

THE SCHICKS

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

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

Ministry Threats. There are a several that can take a missionary off the field. They can include travel restrictions, family problems, lack of financial support, ill health and even government animosity towards missionaries. This is why prayer and dedication to God's plan for us is so important. Pray that we will be able to focus our energies in a powerful way on the center of what God wants us to do in getting the Gospel to many more Poles at this time. We continue to marvel at God's provision in enabling us to return to Poland last February.

Thank you for your prayers for us during our time in the US. Our son's and our daughter's weddings were both very beautiful and a glory to God. We traveled many miles, from Virginia, down to Florida and then up to Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. We met with many people who were very interested in what God is doing here in our congregation, in Warsaw and around Poland. We had some difficulties, in that we had to re-think where we were going to store our belongings and maintain our legal address in the US. In the end, we had to move our things from Virginia to Michigan. We sold our trailer to a good friend of ours, a pastor from Poland, who also has many connections in the network of evangelicals in Poland. God also provided a new caretaker for our car.

Our return to Poland was threatened because of the confusion of government restrictions. Our air carrier cancelled one of our flights and then asked us how we were going to finish our trip. Eventually they understood their mistake and arranged a flight with a partner carrier. We spent 12 hours in a mostly empty airport working and napping before catching the evening flight to Warsaw. Pastor Marek picked us up and made sure we had fresh food and groceries waiting in our apartment. We stayed inside for the first week to get over jetlag, get our household organized and prove our health, before getting back into moving among the public. The seven packages we shipped arrived in due time.

We are very happy to be back in Poland. Thanks for helping us get here.

Yours for Christ and Poland,

Ed & Leslie Schick



Ed with Our Packages

SZKÓŁKA BEGINS!

The first Sunday back at our Warsaw church we met Eugenia, a young mom from Ukraine. She and her six-year-old-son, Nikita, were new visitors to our church, Blisko Boga. Leslie wasted no time in sharing the Gospel Ball with him. Eugenia watched Nikita recite back to her the points of the Gospel Ball he had just learned. She immediately pulled Leslie aside and disclosed with tears in her eyes, that she had always struggled to explain the Gospel to her son. Yet now, Nikita had a clear understanding of the Gospel and was able to explain it to others.

Our church was ripe for beginning a Sunday School. The attendance of young families had been sporadic at best. Many times, when parents would come with their children, they would end up standing in the back of the auditorium, so that they could keep one eye on their children as they played in the playroom. The children were a mission field right under our noses. After talking with some of the moms, it became obvious to Leslie that they understood the need for a Sunday School, wanted to help, but lacked the training and leadership to get started. Leslie was able to provide the training and equipping of the parents, so that now we have a Sunday School with teachers and assistants that regularly minister to our children every Sunday. It is exciting to see these children eagerly learning important truths from God's Word. This step of faith has spurred on further growth as some families, who had only rarely come to church in the past, are now faithfully attending.



Sunday School Craft Time



Brothers at a Cold and Rainy Picnic

ZELÓW PROGRESS

In March we were at the Zelów Church with Grzegorz Skobel. It was a great time of preaching and fellowshiping with the growing group. A young man just started attending and was looking forward to being baptized. A young lady was planning to be baptized, even though she had to overcome a few personal obstacles. Leslie trained two people to use the Gospel Ball and Story of Hope. The pastor showed us the renovation projects that have been funded by your generous gifts. He showed us further needs as he leads the church to grow in different areas.

EVANGELISM SEMINAR

Breaking New Ground

During our visit in March, Pastor Grzegorz asked us to return for a weekend to do an evangelism seminar, particularly explaining to church members how to use the Story of Hope to evangelize those in their community. So, in May, we traveled out on a sunny Saturday afternoon to meet with 12 eager trainees. It was



Training Church Members How to Use the Story of Hope

amazing to see so many from such a small church. This was nearly all of their active core. We gave an overview of the book and did a practice lesson. We made an e-list of those we hoped to evangelize and then spent time praying for each one. Afterwards we answered more questions and planned further equipping in the future. This training session was the first of its kind for us. Along with the English4Life teaching opportunity (see below), this opportunity shows that God is working to help us break new ground in the broadening and deepening of our Gospel ministry here in Poland.

English4Life

In March, after a fruitful day of ministry in Zelów, we decided to stop by our friends and fellow missionaries, Tim and Virginia Good at Word of Life Poland in Zgierz (north of Łódź and about one hour north of Zelów). Little did we know that this short visit would change the course of our next two months. Tim and Ginny told us of a desperate and immediate need that they had for an English Teacher and a Bible Teacher for their upcoming English4Life semester. An essential part of this total-immersion English and Christian discipleship program is the support and help of American teachers a.k.a. “Native Speakers.” Because of travel restrictions, this was precisely what they lacked. After a time of prayer, Leslie and I felt that it was the Lord’s leading that we should help them out in this critical Spring Semester.

English4Life proved to be a wonderful opportunity for deep discipleship. Ed taught the Bible Class, using the Story of Hope and Leslie taught one of the two English groups. Ed also trained the staff at Word of Life how to use the Story of Hope Gospel booklet. Leslie took two lessons to teach the Gospel Ball which is a simpler version of the Gospel for younger children. Towards the end of the semester, Ed focused on teaching the Bridge to Life. The eight basic words that comprise the Bridge to Life (God, Man, Sin, Death, Christ, Cross, Faith, Life) form a simple outline that helps believers share the Gospel, God’s Story of Hope, to their friends and family. As a final assignment, each of the students was required to present the “Gospel in Five” (minutes) to a partner in class using the eight words from the Bridge to Life. Several students testified that this was one of the most practical things they learned in their time at English4Life, because they had always struggled with the “how” of sharing the gospel. We are thankful that we can take these kinds of ministry opportunities both because of our ministry configuration and our nice car that really helps to get to these places quickly.



English4Life Team



Teaching Students to Use the Story of Hope

FAMILY UPDATE

Our grandson, Joseph Whittemore, has a couple of important announcements to make! First of all, his Uncle Ryan graduated from college with a degree in Architectural and Engineering Technology. Joseph's mommy and daddy took him all the way up to Richmond, VA to celebrate Ryan's accomplishments with his friends and family. We are praising God for Ryan and praying for him that God will guide him in his future steps. Then after barely a week, Joseph's little brother, Rowan, arrived a couple of weeks early! We are praising God for Rowan's safe arrival and praying that God will bless Joseph's whole family (Annelise and DJ, Joseph and Rowan).

Joseph would also like you to know that Uncle Christian and Aunt Nishon as well as Uncle Ryan have moved to new apartments in Richmond, VA. Since Ryan takes care of our American mail, this means that Grandmom and Granddad Schick (Ed and Leslie) have also changed addresses. Please note our new address in the contact information section of this letter.

Lastly, it is with sadness that we report the passing of Leslie's Aunt Anne on February 28th. We are thankful for the love Aunt Anne always shared with us and for the wonderful visit we had with her just last October. We are thankful that we do not need to mourn as the world mourns, but that God has given us real hope in Christ.



Ryan with Joseph at Graduation Party



Welcome! Baby Rowan

FINANCIAL REPORT

We are happy to report that our support level has been meeting our budget needs thanks to your faithful giving. Our Growth Fund helps our Polish partners who are actively involved in ministries that aggressively share the Gospel and disciple believers to become healthy, strong and growing. After giving a number of gifts to the Zelów congregation for building repairs and a new lawn mower, we have about \$650 left. As this fund grows, we can do more for churches like these and also individuals who are training for Gospel ministry. We will keep these needs posted.

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. As a result of our English4Life camp, we have made some contacts with pastors who have invited us to schedule **future meetings** to present our evangelism and discipleship training and materials.
2. As the trainees in our seminars have strongly urged us to finish the **“Way to Joy” translation project**, two of the students at English4Life volunteered to help. So, Ed has restarted the project and expects it to be printed by year's end.
3. **English Journaling** is an opportunity to help Polish students who are learning English. Using email, students interact with native speakers (like most of you) in order to improve



Pastor Greg on New Mower

their English. This is a great way to aid God's work in Poland by encouraging a Polish Christian or by being a compassionate witness to an unbelieving Pole. Would you be willing to correspond with a Polish student learning English? Please pray for more workers in this harvest field.

4. **English Camp in Teodorowo** is coming up! Ed and Leslie will both teach an English class as well as the morning Bible story. Most of the 50 children will be hearing these stories for the first time and will be challenged to follow Christ.
5. We will also be at the same camp for **Zelów Church Family Camp**. Ed will be speaking and training people in evangelism.
6. Ed is still working on our **residence permit**. Pray for the lawyer representing us and that the provincial office will accept our medical funding plan from the US, so we don't have to buy unnecessary, duplicate insurance in Poland.
7. **For our Country** - We pray for better treatment of the elderly, better therapies for Covid patients and more freedom for children to live healthy lives. We urge more believers to vote for better leaders, encourage those in office to make better decisions, and ask God to bring repentance and revival so that we can receive the benefits of his wisdom once again.
8. Please pray the Lord will provide a **hedge of protection** around our family, ministry and ministry partners, so that we can serve and travel freely in the field of Poland without distracting concerns.



Leslie and Anna "Hamming it Up"

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 26 - July 4 - English Bible Camp in Teodorowo
July 5-10 - Zelów Baptist Church Family Camp in Teodorowo
July 25 - MTAG training meeting in Łódź
Sept 10-12 - Blisko Boga Church Retreat
Sept 25-26 - Evangelism Conference

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