

THE SCHICKS

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

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

We live in times where the truth of God's message is suppressed in many ways. The Devil's plan is to twist everything into tornadoes of deception and destruction. People believe in the false idols of materialism, technology, and even medical "science" to save them from the ills and problems of this life. Thankfully, the Lord's message of truth and hope continues to shine forth in these dark times. Small groups of faithful believers are sharing the Gospel with adults and children alike. We are grateful for opportunities this past summer to partner with Polish ministry leaders in camps and local church activities to teach truth from God's Word. We are asking the Lord for more opportunities with neighbors and community people who seem full of worldly supplies but are empty of the good spiritual food they really need. Thank you for being faithful partners during these times of social and economic up and downs. Be sure to share with us any news or needs you might have. Please note our new U.S. address. Our email address and phone number remain the same.

God bless you all,

Ed & Leslie Schick

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A Zelów Thanksgiving

Polish evangelical churches celebrate a "Harvest Sunday" sometime in the Fall (September to November). It can be any Sunday. They decorate the front of the church with fruit, vegetables and colorful decorations. The worship service centers around the theme of "Thanksgiving" as they reflect on, not only a food harvest, but also many other blessings as well. The Baptist Church in Zelów is an outreach ministry from our church in Warsaw (Second Baptist or Blisko Boga). As a renewal ministry, they are hoping to grow to become a full-size congregation that is able to fully support a pastor. They invited us to come for their "Harvest Sunday." I had the privilege of sharing from the Word about the necessity of worship and thanksgiving. We had a fellowship dinner afterwards and conversed with many people, following-up on their



Thanksgiving Display

progress in various areas of personal and church life. We were reminded of the need to keep in constant prayer for those who face spiritual battles. We rejoice in the progress of repairing the church and making it more ready for youth activities as well. The pastor's car is now fully repaired. Thank you for aiding in this progress through your generous giving. Please rejoice with us as you have your Thanksgiving celebrations later this month.

Summer Re-Cap

Our two weeks of camping in Teodorowo were quite intense. Every building was full, with 58 campers plus staff in some extra cabins a short distance from the camp. We ministered in the morning general session. Leslie gave two lectures on the Gospel Ball. The rest of the week she taught Bible lessons about people who turned to God. Each evening we met one-on-one with children to recite the Gospel Ball colors and meaning, after which they received a colored ball, wristband or hacky sack. Later in the week we had a campfire. Our evening Bible teacher, Anna Borkowska, gave her testimony about being a foster child. Through that hardship God brought the Gospel to her, gave her hope and new life. Afterwards, a handful of children stayed around to talk about spiritual concerns. We gave out three Gideon New Testaments to boys who wished to read the Gospels.

The second week in Teodorowo was the Family Camp for the Baptist church in Zelów. The group of 17 gathered each day for teaching from 1 Peter. Leslie taught a class for the four children using the same lessons from the previous week. Ed taught 1 Peter 2 and gave two training sessions on the Story of Hope's "Bridge to Life." In the early part of the week, we had a baptismal service at the lake for a new couple in the church, with other vacationers watching. Then on the last night of Family Camp, after a long conversation with Pastor Grzegorz, another lady said she wanted to be baptized. So, despite the chilly air, we had a second baptismal service at 10:00pm at the lake, with fewer, but still some vacationers looking on and asking questions.

“Guest in the house, God in the house!”

This is a well-known Polish saying about hospitality. It rings familiar to the early disciples' expectation that those who fear God will treat his servants and guests with appropriate kindness. See Matthew 10:11-15. This teaching underscores the blessing we receive when



Thanksgiving Meal at the Church



Teodorowo English Camp



Baptism in the Lake

we show hospitality to others. In this past quarter, we have been blessed by the opportunity to serve quite a number of others in this way.

Ed's second cousin, Zach (age 25) recently moved to Poland to work as an English teacher and better learn about the land of his family roots. During his initial weeks, Zach stayed in our guest room and Ed helped him with some of his basic acculturation needs. Through a contact from our church, God provided Zach with a teaching job in a group of private schools just outside of Warsaw. The schools are owned by an evangelical believer who also helped Zach find an apartment close by. Many people have helped our young adult children while we have been far away in Poland. We were glad to be able to "return the favor" to his parents with their son here in Poland.



Zach Giving a Testimony

Ron Davis is a veteran missionary with ABWE, who is currently raising support to come to Poland. He recently came on a Vision Trip along with two other gentlemen from ABWE. We spent a lovely evening together around the dinner table. Ed spent the next day introducing them to some key Polish pastors and ministry leaders. We are thankful for the good cooperation that we have both benefitted from and enjoyed among Evangelical ministry leaders. We look forward to the time when we can welcome Ron to his new post here in Poland.

Mission Training Groups (MTG)

Of all the activities we do in Poland, the most important are the teaching of God's plan for people and training them to follow this plan. If people believe what we teach from God's Word, we train them to practically live this out in their everyday lives and in the Church. Some of our main teaching tools include the Bible, the Story of Hope (evangelism) and the Way to Joy (discipleship). To effectively continue and expand the cycle of evangelism and discipleship, we use Mission Training Groups to help believers become spiritually healthy, strong and growing. In this training, believers gain a thorough understanding of God's plan using the Story of Hope. They learn to share their testimony in an evangelistic way. They learn how to disciple a new believer. Sometimes this training requires the trainee to learn how to be a better disciple of Jesus in some key areas. People who don't understand God's overall plan and have not surrendered their lives to faithful and spiritual living, usually are not interested in what Christ has commanded us to do in evangelism and discipleship. So sometimes we start with some basic discipleship strengthening lessons. Toward the end of the training, we focus on a deep understanding of God's mission for us as believers and in particular, our personal place in His plan to redeem the world through Christ. We are currently working with a few believers using informal training. In the near future we hope to start small teams that both study and train in these vital areas of spiritual development. If you are interested in doing this by distance training, please let us know. Email, phone and video calling have made ministry activities so much easier in spite of time and place restraints. If you are already involved in these activities, please share with us how they are going and how others can learn from your experiences.

The 4th Musketeer

A fellow missionary at our church invited Ed to go on a Men's Extreme Character-Building Weekend. This Polish group of men invite other men to join them on a bi-annual trekking adventure in the southern mountains of Poland or the forests of northern Poland. Ed had

prepared for the physical challenge weeks before. Circumstantially we had already joined a training group that helped him towards these goals. But spiritual and character development is the real focus. Men can trek half the night and set up camp. Men can hike 30 km through bad conditions. They can race and wrestle each other and accept other daring feats of endurance. But can they also be faithful to Christ? Can they lead their families? Can they deal with personal sin and problems with others? These are the important issues that were presented through this outdoor exercise. The team of four men from our church that attended this event came back mostly uninjured but also with an unforgettable experience to push them deeper in their spiritual walk with Christ. We hope to keep this kind of exercise in mind as we challenge people to grow and become stronger spiritually.



Fourth Musketeer Team

Discipleship Booklet Translation Project

We are almost done with the second level of translating the discipleship booklet "Way to Joy". This is thanks to the work of two young ladies who sacrificed time in their busy lives to review the first translation draft. I now need to carefully insert their corrections into the text. The next level involves making a reader review copy in which Polish believers can go through the text much like a "beta" version of a software program. This allows me to catch any more corrections that are needed or things about the translation that don't communicate well. We need to be thorough before beginning the final stages of setting up the print copy and doing the printing itself. We are hoping to have this book done by the end of this year. There are still seven more projects waiting after this one. Though these tools will greatly improve the effectiveness of our teaching and discipling in Poland, the lack of them does not stop our ministry efforts. We are currently using our English versions with some Polish helps. Our ever-present resource, the Word of God, and our opportunities to teach, constantly allow the Gospel to spread further across Poland. Thank you for funding our literature projects which help us to equip Poles with more evangelistic tools.

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. **Schicks on the Move** - Ryan was recently hired as a CAD Designer at a very good engineering company. He was also able to find a nice apartment very close to his new employment. We praise God for His provision in Ryan's life. Since Ryan manages our U.S. mail, our U.S. address has also changed. Please note our new address in the contact information section of this letter. Christian and Nishon have recently purchased their first home and are moving as well.
2. **Saying "Goodbye"** - Recently, we have had to say, "Good-bye" to a couple of our "Star Supporters" and long-time family friends, as they have gone home to be with the Lord. **George Herlein** had been both a Bible teacher and a strong supporter of missions from Ed's church in Michigan. He had also been a very good friend to Ed's parents. John and Margaret Durst had been a wonderful support to us since the early days of our marriage and ministry in New Jersey. Their love and support continued into our pastoral ministries in Michigan and our call to Poland. After John's passing, **Margaret Durst**, supported us in

prayer, encouragement and financial support. On more than one occasion, when it seemed as though we'd never reach full support to go to Poland, we were humbled to find an "above and beyond" generous gift from Margaret Durst. The effect on us was that it strengthened our faith and encouraged us to keep going. God blessed us with George, John and Margaret. May God bless their families with the memory of these godly believers.

3. **Language improvement** is always a need in Poland as we strive to communicate in Polish. With all the many ministry opportunities, it is easy to crowd out room that we need to grow. Pray that we can protect time each morning to study and also for a tutor to push us along to a higher level of speaking and understanding.
4. **Legalities** - Early in the summer we were in a dilemma concerning our **health funding plan**. In order to get our residence permit, we had to show proof of health insurance. Previously, the provincial office in Lublin accepted our U.S. plan. But here in Warsaw they did not. We could not afford a Polish policy because we would then be paying for two policies at one time which would break our budget. In the end we decided to cancel our current U.S. plan and pay for a Polish policy until our furlough. As Ed did some research about U.S. medical plans, a new option came up that was only available for a short time through special federal relief funds. The monthly premium is fully subsidized (a \$1,300 value) so this allows us to use our monthly funds for Polish insurance. What started out as an impossible situation eventually was resolved through God's sovereign hand. Recently Ed was also able to get a temporary proof of residence and thus a new **car registration** in Warsaw. He could really see prayers being answered as the personnel in the government office were much more helpful than on prior attempts. On the heels of this news was a notice from our lawyer that a positive decision was made concerning our stay in Poland. On November 22 we will be receiving new **resident cards**. Thank you so much for praying. It has made such a difference.



Sand Volleyball Court at the Zelów Church

5. **Zelów Church** – Development of ministry leadership. Renovation of out-building and grounds for youth ministry.



4M Tug-o-war



A Campfire for Sausages not Marshmallows