

THE SCHICKS

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

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

In Jesus' well-known parable of the Good Samaritan, the kind-hearted traveler saw the injured man after he had been assaulted. Like everyone else in the story, he had a choice: to help or not to help. The question being addressed by the story was "If God wants me to love my neighbor, who exactly is my neighbor?" In the end, Jesus taught that your neighbor is anyone you come across that has a need with which you can help.

Ukraine has been a neighbor to Poland for a long time. In recent years they have had a good relationship both politically and between individuals as well. Many Polish people have a deep sense of hospitality for foreigners who need help. The Russian attack on Ukraine put this compassion into high gear. Like the Good Samaritan, the Poles haven't just given first aid but have also sought to ensure Ukrainian refugees are able to establish a new life in Poland however long that will be.

People in Western Europe recently have begun to relieve the strain on Poland by taking some refugees. People around the world, especially the US, have contributed funds and other aid so that front-line ministries and organizations can meet the needs of people who have escaped the nightmare of war.

We thank you once again for your prayers for us as God has placed us here and given us a new chapter in our ministry. We appreciated the generous giving that put us here and prepared us for ministry all these years. We also are thankful to many who have recently given special gifts that have boosted our ability to support refugees and undergird local church ministries that are housing and ministering to them.

You can read more about the Ukrainian crisis below. Just a reminder . . . our prayer letter comes out 3-4 times a year and is a more in-depth report. For those who have email, we send more frequent updates through a mailing service called Epistle. During the early times of the war, we were posting updates on social media, at first daily and then weekly. Please let us know if we can improve our communication with you. Your prayers have sustained us through the strength that God promises when we ask for help in prayer.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

Ed & Leslie Schick

P.S. If you would like to financially help with the relief efforts through our ministry, simply send a check or online payment to CMC (see contact info above) and write "E. Schick, Ukrainian Relief" in the memo.

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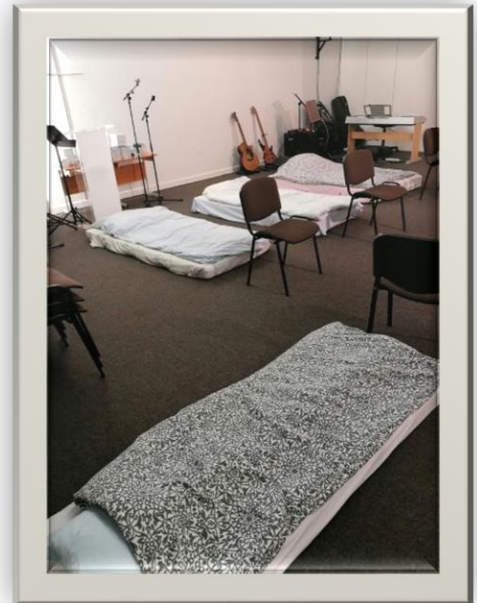
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The Ukrainian War

When Belarus was attacking Poland by violently forcing illegal immigrants across her border, we knew this represented an evil force among the governments of both Belarus and Russia. Eventually the Belarusians gave in and sent the illegal immigrants back to their home countries. This resolved the crisis with Poland but soon after there was a Russian troop buildup around Ukraine. There were weeks of speculation, hope and prayer. But now the threat of Russian military aggression in Ukraine is a reality. Their cruelty against civilians and their cities is seen by God and needs to be opposed by all God-fearing people and especially believers. But now many Ukrainians are like the injured traveler, and we need to help them. Since 2014, God has allowed us to get to know many Polish believers and church ministry leaders in various cities. Up until 2019 we served at the Baptist Church in Lublin and at times with the church in Chełm which is close to the Ukrainian border. Because of this, we have also gotten to know many Ukrainians as well as Belarussians. Now these two churches are at the front lines of receiving Ukrainian refugees into Poland. Many refugees only stay a night as they travel on to a planned destination with relatives or friends. Others travel further to other Polish cities like Warsaw. Eventually they have to make plans for long-term residency in Poland or other European countries. Very few are able to immigrate to the U.S.

Our Baptist churches and camps were quickly converted into help centers in order to house, feed and give support and supplies to the refugees. They also have organized aid (food, medicine, other items) that is collected and sent by transport into Ukraine. Our local church has a small chapel and two apartments. We also have a sister congregation whose members are mostly from Ukraine. Their members were very helpful to the refugees. In the second week of the war, friends in the U.S. connected us with a mother and two boys who came to Warsaw. The husband stayed in Ukraine to help as a volunteer. Their home in Odessa is not too far from where Ed's dad was born. The next week we hosted a lady in our home. She is from Zhytomyr which is where Ed's maternal relatives came from. While preparing for her next step



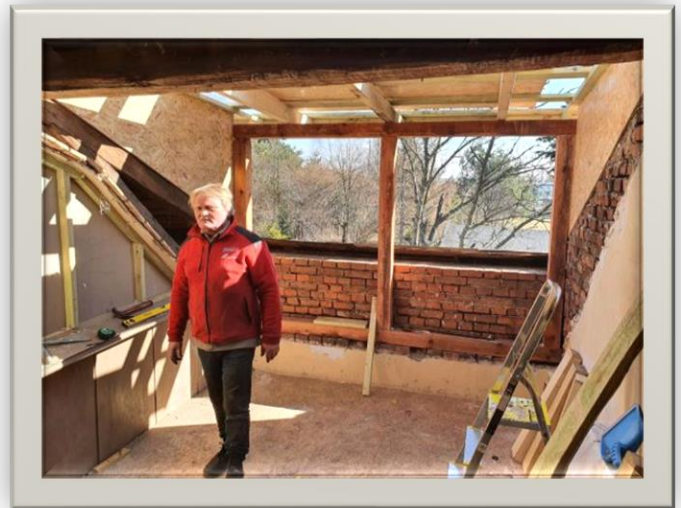
we took her to our church's help center to be able to talk and connect with Ukrainian people and our church members. She then traveled to the southern city of Katowice where her niece lives. She was hoping to find a job doing in-home elder care. Eventually the wave of refugee migration slowed down giving the help centers breathing room to rotate their workers and refine their ministries to their needs. Because of generous donations we have been able to directly provide personal needs to Ukrainians since they could only carry so much when they escaped from their hometowns. We also have supported the local church help centers with various costs including added utilities for their buildings. Some of their utility bills will also be higher because of the rise in energy prices. A pastor friend from Białystok recently posted a need for paying for fuel and drivers to get aid (food, medicine, other items) into Ukraine. We have been able to support two of the weekly trips and hope to continue to do so. We included prayer requests below and we look ahead to the need for God's help as this crisis continues and will hopefully soon change into recovery and restoration.



Transports on the Way to Ukraine

Zelów Church Update

Pastor Grzegorz and his family continue to work at this rebuilding ministry. Because of the generous donations of our prayer support team, we have been able to financially assist them in speeding up the renovations to their church building and supplying more coal so that they would be able to host refugees at the church. The enlarged bathroom is now complete, and they also have enough coal to keep the building heated. The purchase of extra coal also helped them since the prices are going up. They are also ministering to a group of Ukrainian refugees in a small town near them. They have provided 90 people with food and supplies they were lacking as well as Bible literature and a church service for them. We will be visiting the Zelów church on Easter and Ed will be preaching in the service.



Evangelism in Poland

At the core of our ministry is the fulfillment of Christ's commission to tell everyone about him and God's plan to save and bless them through Christ's death. A couple of months ago, one of our ministry groups had an in-depth evaluation of their discipleship activity. Half the people

in the group openly admitted that at this point in their Christian life, they weren't doing much to evangelize the lost. The reasons were varied, and most were real difficulties faced by everyone who seeks to engage unbelievers in a discussion about spiritual things. Leslie and I are committed and equipped to help people overcome these barriers that result in believers giving up and remaining silent. In a world that is suffering from injustice, crime, immorality and war, we cannot remain silent. We must take up arms and attack the spiritual enemies of God's plan to save people. We continue to use the Story of Hope and other Good Soil tools to share the Gospel and to train others. It is easier to open up conversations with people when we are helping to meet tangible needs. Sometimes people like to talk to Americans to use their English. Sometimes they just want to know why we are living here. These and many other topics become bridges to building relationships and the opportunity to invite them to know and follow God's plan in the Bible.

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. For wisdom with **ministry opportunities**. We must focus on the best things that fulfil the mission God has called us to do at this time.
2. We now have the first draft copy of The Way to Joy **discipleship training booklet** in Polish (graphics with Polish text). There is much work yet to be done. Please pray that we can keep that project moving along.
3. For **witnessing opportunities** in the community and times of informal discipleship around our dining room table.
4. For our **Polish Language Lessons** and improvement in our language ability.
5. Ed has been using an **International Driver's License**. While this is permitted, the Polish government prefers that foreigners obtain a Polish Driver's License. Pray for Ed that he will be able to navigate government requirements and communicate clearly.
6. Praise the Lord for our return to **good health** after a bout with some respiratory illness.
7. Praise God for the Impact of the Gospel at **Street Church**. On a cold winter night, we came to support our friends who regularly serve in this ministry. We came to encourage but came away encouraged ourselves. We had a good conversation with a student from Turkey who was attracted to our service because of the music. Another man asked for prayer that God would free him from the addictions that had taken hold in his life. We are thankful to see the Gospel have fruit even among street addicts.
8. For **Ryan's Vision Therapy**. We are grateful to God for all that he has restored to Ryan since his motorcycle accident 5 ½ years ago. So many miracles, yet we are coming to the God who gives liberally, and asking for more. Since Ryan's accident, he

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11 – Visitors from Monclova Road Baptist Church

April 17 Ed preaching at the Zelów Church

Furlough – September to December 2022 (Please let us know if you would like to get together during our time in the US.)



has not been able to drive a car because of problems with his peripheral vision on his right side. He gets around town by scooter or bicycle, but this is not always safe or easy. Recently, Ryan went to a Neuro-Optometrist who believes she can help him. The doctor can only coach; Ryan can only do his therapy work; it is God who will bring the healing. Please pray that Ryan will be able to safely drive a car again without restrictions.

9. We are thrilled to announce that our son and daughter-in-law, **Christian and Nishon**, are expecting a **baby boy!** Please pray for little Calvin Abraham even now as God develops his every part, and for his safe arrival in the beginning part of July.

Special Ministry to Ukrainians

1. For a **free and independent Ukraine** where churches are not hindered, and foreign missionaries can serve. (Russian and Belarusian churches do not have this freedom.)
2. For an **end to the war** with no Russian military units in Ukraine.
3. For courageous and full support of the **Ukrainian military** by the US and other Western allies.
4. For protection and aid for **Ukrainian soldiers** and civilians in the war zones.
5. For aid and guidance for **Ukrainians** who have been displaced in Ukraine and other countries in Europe.
6. For new **government** leadership in **Russia**.
7. For a stronger and bigger evangelical **church in Russia**.
8. Praise God for the **financial gifts** that have been sent to our ministry that have enabled us to help Ukrainian refugees in so many ways. They have also assisted help centers (churches and camps) that are facing increased costs due to extra building use and the rise in energy prices.



Food and Fellowship at the Help Center

Meeting the Greatest Needs of Poles through the Truth of the Gospel

