

THE SCHICKS

DEVELOPING A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT
FOR THE GOSPEL IN POLAND

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

Below are a few accounts of God's work here in Poland and our ministry efforts in the places where He has commissioned us.

Some of these stories were in our May Epistle update. We strongly urge you to subscribe to the Epistle ministry update service, which will enable you to get updates once a month in addition to our e-mail prayer letter which only comes out every three or four months.

Though I originally requested Epistle subscriptions for many on our e-mail list, we have now been informed that it is best and even necessary for each of you to complete a subscription process to remain on the Epistle list. So, we encourage as many of you as possible to do this if you have not done so already. You will still get notifications about the quarterly prayer letter.

The Lord continues to lead and shape our ministry to maximize the best opportunities here in Poland. Our ministry of evangelism and discipleship training works the best with churches, pastors and believers who see the need and are willing to receive this kind of training. There are so many opportunities where we could work. Please pray that we will have the discernment and wisdom to begin with the most ripe and fruitful places.

Thanks again for your help, your prayers and your financial partnership with us.

Yours for Christ,

Ed & Leslie Schick

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More Church Planting Opportunities

Here is Ed's account of a church planting conference in April: This was the first time I had attended such a large Polish conference where so many ministry leaders were sharing about their experiences and plans to do more local evangelism in Poland. There were presentations of both research and testimonies concerning recent or current church plants. The bottom line is that more people need to hear the Gospel and this work must be done by the existing believers in churches in local ministries throughout Poland. The statistics concerning the number of evangelicals and evangelical churches in Poland are quite grim. Some estimates say we are only a fraction of 1% (as low as 0.3%).

This was especially borne out when one of the young believers in our congregation questioned why he had to drive 45 minutes just to get to the closest, albeit small evangelical church. Remember, most faithful Roman Catholics walk to church each Sunday or have a

very short commute. Because of this, in one of our conference meetings, I asked why there were no evangelical churches, or at least an outreach group, in his powiat (small county) of Wołomin (vo-wo-meen). There should be at least an outreach group for this suburban population. As it turned out, there is an outreach group. Somehow, previously, we were unable to find them on the internet, but that is what conferences are for: to network with others face to face and to collaborate for the advancement of God's work. This evangelism group has a once-a-month outreach at the Saturday market. Then the following day (Sunday) they have an afternoon worship service in a hotel room. I have since gone to one of their services and next time hope to bring Leslie and this young believer.

There were many encouraging presentations and conversations at the conference. Even the mere presence of so many people eager to do God's work was a blessing. But at the end, I felt a little let down concerning the future. So, what are we going to do about this great need? At that very moment, a Polish pastor walked up to me and invited me to come to his church to present our evangelism and discipleship training ministry. As we worked out plans to visit his church, it became more and more obvious that God was opening up for us a great opportunity to be on the front edge of another expansive evangelism effort for the establishment of new churches near Poland's capital.

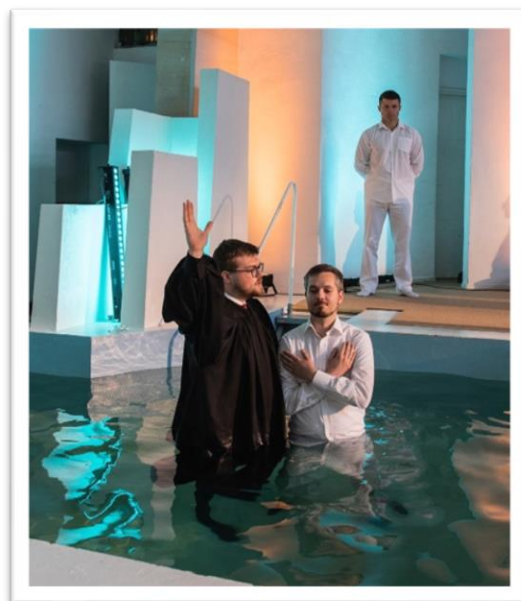


Leslie and I went to Pastor Michał's church in Otwock in May. We conducted our typical ministry of sharing from the Word of God and doing some simple evangelism training. But in addition to this, we were struck by their warmth and concern for missionaries like us. Though most Polish churches struggle to keep informed and enthused about missions ministries, this church proactively brings in missionaries to highlight their ministry once a month. The mother church in Otwock has now sponsored a daughter church in Góra Kalwaria. They are also working in a new city called Grójec.

One of our partnering churches is forming a team to come to Poland in the summer of 2024. They were hoping to do a children's evangelistic outreach for a few days during their stay in Poland. When I asked Pastor Michał about this possibility he pointed again to this city of Grójec and said he could arrange for members of his church to help us with this ministry. So once again God is bringing together people to join in his harvest field. I should also mention that this new city is not too far from one of my Polish cousins and is in a strategic place in the expansion of the greater Warsaw region. Please pray with us about this new front of evangelistic expansion.

New Believers Baptized

We recently had the privilege of seeing one of our new converts be baptized. Another man is also planning to be baptized in the near future. Our sister ministry in Zelów also saw a few baptized, including some Ukrainians. We rejoice in these steps of faith, but we also know that Satan is constantly prowling about seeking to discourage those who have taken



these monumental steps to follow Christ. In Poland, family members often oppose those who take this step because it signifies that this new believer no longer is loyal to the traditional Catholic church. Pray that they will be strong and have patience that will endure.

Community Outreach

Every spring, Warsaw has a "Night of the Museums" weekend in which all the museums are open and have no entry fee. Our church put on a Bible Exposition in conjunction with this city-wide event. This Bible Expo is a museum-quality display of ancient Bible texts with explanations. It tells how God both preserved and translated the Bible through many centuries. It presents the Bible as the most unique book of all



time, that it is able to help people and change their lives for eternity. We invited our neighbors to come, but they were busy with many activities including their daughter's first communion. Even when people didn't come, the event afforded us an opportunity to speak to people about the Bible and spiritual things. We had over 200 people visit the display throughout the weekend.

On Friday evening, Leslie and I handed out leaflets on the sidewalk in front of the chapel. We met an Armenian man who resides in the apartments in our building. He goes to an ornate Orthodox Church near a big transport station and shopping mall. He does not believe we can know our eternal destiny. He thinks we should be good, and then later, at the judgment, we will find out if we will be led into heaven. He also believes his church has the original, Apostolic Bible written in third century. However, he does not read his Bible because he does not believe that common people can understand it properly! We also met a man from Ethiopia. He said that since he came to Poland six months ago, he has become more interested in improving his spiritual life. He is concerned about learning Polish, so we told him about our church's Polish class for Ukrainians. We also told him that there is a great story in the Bible about a man from Ethiopia. At the end of the conversation, he said he would like to come to the Bible Expo sometime that weekend. When a Ukrainian couple started conversing with us, we signaled one of our Ukrainian believers to continue the conversation. We have a sister congregation that meets in our chapel Sunday afternoons. And finally, there was a guard from the apartment building who went into the Bible Expo right away when we invited him and stayed for quite a while.

Discipleship Book Update

Our three reviewers just finished checking the text for the discipleship book and now we have more reviewers and pastors checking the last version that has graphics and pictures, as they would appear in the final copy. This should be done by the end of the busy summer and then we should be able to print in August or September.

Ministry to Ukrainians

In April, the Polish government concluded some of the housing programs for Ukrainian refugees. This has helped many of them to transition into better long-term plans here in Poland, back in Ukraine, in Western Europe or even overseas in countries like Canada or the US. In June, we concluded our language classes for 14 Ukrainians.

One lady from this group, Natalia, came from Kharkiv and used to play the violin in the orchestra in her home city. After coming to Poland, she worked as a house cleaner and

played at the local Ukrainian congregation. She told us often she would rather play in an orchestra again but was content to glorify God in whatever way she could. Part of her concern was that, given her present work situation, she was not able to put in the appropriate number of practice hours to keep up her skill as a professional musician. Leslie hired her as a violin tutor in hopes to also help her English. As we talked and prayed about her future plans, God suddenly opened a door for her to immigrate to Brooklyn, NY. She made this transition in May and is already playing her violin in the American-Ukrainian church there, as well as professionally with a string quartet in wedding venues.



Please pray as God works with each of these individuals and families, some of which are still split up because of the war. The new military offensive has gone slowly due to limited supply by Ukraine's allies. We hope that eventually they will be able to take back their land, defend their independence and keep their security. Please pray for government leaders to be moral, wise and courageous so that the nations of our world can have liberties that allow good living conditions and missionary work to go on everywhere.

Years ago, while we served in Lublin (2014-2019) we met a young Ukrainian named Yehor. We reconnected with him in Warsaw when his Ukrainian congregation started meeting in our church's chapel on Sunday afternoons. He has an ongoing ministry with the young people at his church. This past year he served in a camp ministry for Ukrainian refugee children. We believe he is a good prospect for future ministry leadership. Over the years we hope to encourage him and his pastor to work together to develop his ministry leadership skills. Our Growth Fund helps to support young men like him who sometimes have to work side jobs in addition to their seminary studies and ministries.

Adam's Story

Sometimes amid other important meetings, God spontaneously gives us appointments with people, equally as important as the original event, yet more private and individual. The other day we were travelling to a cemetery for a burial service of a well-known and faithful Christian lady from a nearby Baptist church. As we waited with other people at a tram stop, we noticed a young man, who had an air of familiarity. But we were uncertain as to



where and when we had met him. In the few minutes before our tram came, God enabled our minds to recall that he once visited our church about a year ago. We remembered that he had been a bit of a troubled young man, with whom our colleague, Olek, had worked. The tram came to a stop. We got on the tram, and coincidentally, the young man also got on and stood right next to Ed. Ed started a conversation and spent the next few minutes encouraging Adam, challenging him to return to church and spend time in God's Word. Adam did not come to church the next Sunday, but we believe it was meeting appointed by God. We pray that God will continue to work in Adam's heart and life.

Family Update

Annelise & DJ, together with their two sons, Joseph and Rowan, recently moved to Richmond, VA. Their new house is literally a 5-minute walk to Christian & Nishon and Calvin's house, and a 15-minute drive to Ryan's house. In terms of geography, this significantly draws the circle closer together where our adult children have chosen to make their homes.

This is important because, as overseas missionaries, we typically are not able to help with acute needs that come up in their families. By them being close to each other, they have been able to help each other more frequently. It will also reduce some of our furlough travel as well.

Our remaining children both live in Maryland, with Kyle & Hannah in Berwyn Heights and Johanna & Tyler in Frederick. We praise God for the love and support our children freely give to one another.

This Fall, Kyle & Hannah, Christian & Nishon and Calvin, Ryan and Johanna are all planning on coming to visit us in Europe. We are quite looking forward to the trip!

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. **Next translation projects** - A Polish version of the Gospel ball tract is next and needs a graphics designer.
2. **Family Support Trip** - In June Leslie was able to make a three-week trip to support DJ Annelise in their move from North Carolina to Richmond VA. This was a very strategic effort to help our children at a very stressful time of transition.
3. **Next Furlough** – Next year, 2024 from August to December.
4. **Mary** at the book binding shop is interested in the Gospel booklet, "Story of Hope." We are looking for a Polish lady believer to help us follow-up on this opportunity.
5. **Preaching, teaching** and personal **discipling** opportunities at local churches and in our community.

