

THE SCHICKS

DEVELOPING A HUNDRED POINTS OF LIGHT
FOR THE GOSPEL IN POLAND

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

Taking a multi-year overview at Polish ministries, we can see a number of trends. In 2020 we saw churches set back by the Covid panic and the many unnecessary government restrictions that kept people from serving God in freedom. As Poland began to return to “normal,” 2022 presented another flood of crisis due to Russia’s attack on Ukraine. Many Ukrainians fled to other countries, and many of them came and stayed in Poland. People emigrated to Poland from Belarus as well. In 2023 as the initial crisis began to subside, many new Ukrainian churches were formed, and many existing churches experienced growth with the influx of new Ukrainian members. There has been a resurgence in evangelism in localized areas. We have more opportunities to participate in new evangelistic efforts now, than at any time since we came to Poland almost a decade ago. So this is a very exciting time for us as we focus our efforts more narrowly on the ministry the Lord called us to do here: to teach God’s plan of salvation to every person we can and form groups that disciple people to be faithful followers of Christ. Thankyou for your partnership in this effort while the door is open for us in Poland. As always, we invite you to share with us what opportunities the Lord has opened for you recently.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

Ed & Leslie Schick

Joy Children’s Ministry

At the turn of the year, the leader of a Polish children’s ministry invited us to eat pierogies with him. Most of you know we like pierogies, and we also love to talk about teaching children God’s big story of the Bible. Henryk has been holding weekend children’s camps during the school year and week-long children’s camps during the summer for quite a number of years. They are held at the Baptist Center in Warsaw, which is the home of the Baptist Seminary and conference center. Usually a 100 children and 40 staff participate in each camp program, which includes worship gatherings, workshops, outings and of course rooms with three delicious meals. Henryk organizes the camps, and then invites Christian ministry teams of young people from either Northern Ireland or the United States to help with the workshops. As we ate our pierogies, Henryk

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challenged us to take one of the workshops in his February weekend camp, and we were glad to do it.

We used our Gospel Ball with its five colors to teach the outline of the Gospel, helping the children to memorize and hide God's Word in their hearts. We are hoping their clear understanding of Christ's death for their sin will lead to a faith response to believe and follow Christ. We ministered to 101 children and about 20 staff members in two sessions. At the end of the second day, a few children responded to our invitation to put their faith in Christ. We also challenged them to share the Gospel Ball with their friends using a handout that we had made with the Gospel truths and verses. Those who learned the Gospel Ball well were given a prize, either a ball or a 5-colored knitted hat, in addition to the bracelet that everyone received.

Through your generous donations, we were able to purchase the balls and tracts that we give to participants in these presentations. We were also able to contribute \$2,750 to the overall outreach of the camp. Henryk invites children from associated evangelical churches as well as those who are being reached through the food distribution ministry sponsored by the Joy Foundation. They are reaching many orphans and children from poor families around Poland. When foreign teams come to the camps, they generally lead the workshop activities and also sponsor the campers. In order to conduct the planned number of camps this year (6 weekend camps, 3 summer camps), Joy Children's Ministry still needs sponsors for 2 summer camps and 3 weekend camps. Campers' costs are \$125 for a weekend camp and \$150 for a summer camp. Foreign sponsorship normally covers 80% (\$100-125).

Though this is the first time we have directly worked with Henryk, it is not the first time that our ministries have intersected. Last year, Leslie used the Children's Story of Hope to teach English to a middle school aged boy, named **Zbyszek** (z-Bi-shek). He told Leslie that he had come to know Christ in one of Henryk's camps. Zbyszek continues to come to the camps, but now he serves as a translator for the English speaking volunteers. We are excited to see God continue to work in Zbyszek's life, as he uses his skills for the Lord. In keeping with that, we have offered him a scholarship to Word of Life's "Level-Up English Camp" this summer. He is really looking forward to attending.



Camp Grójec

Since September 2023, the Otwock group of churches has been spearheading new outreach ministries in an "out-burb" of Warsaw. Grójec sits at the crossroads of a major highway from Warsaw and a major cross county road. It has a population of 17,000 and is the capital of Grójec county. It has one of the largest fruit growing areas in Poland, being number one in apple production. Think pies and you'll know why Ed likes this city. They have nice schools. The young people especially like basketball. A small group of believers has been meeting in recent years. Under Pastor Michał's leadership there is now a worship service, one Sunday each month. There are some music and preaching ministries in the city square. Now, plans are coming together for our children's ministry in Grójec. A team from Ohio will be joining us for this 3-day camp in July featuring Bible teaching and the Gospel Ball along with crafts, sports and some English too.



Developing New Local Churches

For the first time in our almost decade of service in Poland, we are seeing many **mission points** starting up and graduating to local church status. They have been fueled by the influx of many Ukrainian believers and some who have come to know the Lord since leaving Ukraine. There have been new efforts to reach strategically located cities that are distant from other evangelical churches. We have been praying for and participating with two of them. They both have once-a-month Sunday afternoon services where believers from other churches gather to join a handful of local believers. In time, we hope the number and maturity of believers increases so that new churches can be formed in Wołomin and Grójec. As the weather warms, there will be more and more outreaches in these areas including our children's camp this July with the supporting team from the US.



Thank you for **your generous support** in recent years. We have a reserve that is going to be used to help with both the immediate and long-term needs of these ministries. We also hope to be involved in encouraging the pastors, and training workers in evangelism and discipleship so they can reach out to these communities.

Points of Light

As we were praying recently, we decided to list all the people we know in Poland who are faithfully living for Christ and sharing his message with others. We originally set our goal at 1,000. But sometimes numbers are so big we don't really connect with the actualities and realities of them. Who is faithfully living for Christ in genuine discipleship? (See Acts 2:42-47.) Who is faithfully sharing Christ's message with others? Honestly, most believers we talk to are doing neither. They don't talk much about their spiritual life nor do they share about any people they are trying to reach. Let's be doers of God's Word. (See James epistle). Please let us know how we can help you become spiritually healthy, strong and growing followers of Christ who are faithfully fulfilling the mission He has given us.



Furlough 2024

We are planning on a furlough from August to December, 2024. If you or your church is interested in us coming to report or minister in some way, let us know. We typically spend extended time in:

Detroit, MI	Toledo, OH
Cleveland OH	Haddon Heights, NJ
Richmond, VA	Daytona Beach, FL

UPCOMING EVENTS

JCM Weekend Camp – March 28 – April 1.
JCM Weekend Camp – May 30 – June 2.
JCM Camp – July 1-6
Heartland Mission Trip – July 21-30
Grójec Children's Outreach – July 25-27
Furlough – August-December

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. General need for more **Polish leaders and workers** to help with new groups and congregations.
2. We are thankful that **Tatiana** passed the mid-level Polish test. Ever since coming to Poland she has made slow but steady progress to improve her career in financial accounting. Pray also for her elder mother and young adult daughter who depend on her income.
3. **Sławek** connected with the Zelów church through their display at the city's Christmas Market. He was baptized recently and is also in a home group with mature believers.
4. We have many **family needs** at this time including Ed's mom (Ruth) who is a new widow. She continues to live in the north Detroit area with support from family members and her church. Pray also that our children will be faithful to the Lord, to each other and will allow God to work in their lives.
5. **Health** - Our annual check-up showed just a few areas that need attention. Praise the Lord we are in general good health and enjoy opportunities to exercise at a nearby forest, pool and gym. There are also many parks with bike trails all around the city.
6. **Evangelism and Discipleship Publications** - We spent a lot of hard work and time recently developing a Gospel Ball handout which we are using in our children's ministry. The text is finished but we need to work on the graphics. Eventually we want to publish it as a small tract. We are thankful for Polish partners like Tomek who is patiently helping us to get a print ready document for these purposes. After this project is finished we will turn our attention again to our discipleship booklet, "Way to Joy."
7. **Points of Light** - Would you prayerfully consider becoming a point of light for the Gospel in your community. Please let us know how we can pray for and support you in this mission for Christ.



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

