

THE SCHICKS

DEVELOPING A HUNDRED POINTS OF LIGHT
FOR THE GOSPEL IN POLAND

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

In our report, we will rehearse what the Lord has done through our ministry through the spring and summer. Each month we have been a part of children's meetings that have allowed us to teach the life-giving power of God's Word along with helping Christian parents and leaders to better disciple those in their families and ministries.

Our upcoming furlough this fall is a great opportunity for our partners like you to meet with us by phone or in person. Though we do our best in these reports, there is so much more we can share with partners who personally interact with us.

September 2024 marks our 10-Year anniversary for ministry in Poland. The seven years we spent preparing for this ministry steeled us for the many ups and downs of service in a foreign land. With God's grace and under his protection we hope to serve another decade. For there is much work to be done in this field.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

Ed & Leslie Schick

Children's Ministry in Grójec

In July, a team of eleven people from the Heartland Community Church in Ohio under the leadership of Pastor Dave Ambrose came to Poland. Our Polish partner, Pastor Michał Szlachetka and the Góra Kalwaria Baptist Church arranged a three-day summer children's ministry in the town of Grójec.

The vicinity around Grójec is one of the largest fruit growing areas in Poland and is number one in apple production. This time of year, Grójec is certainly "ripened unto harvest."

Our children's ministry was the first ever in Grójec and the reception that we received from the community was simply amazing. The owner of the community center provided her building to us free of charge. When we thanked her, she said, "Room should always be made for people like you."

After a conversation with the town mayor, he asked if we would be willing to help renovate an old Jewish cemetery as an outreach into the community. Little did he know that Pastor Michał

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had previously been involved in a similar activity. This proved to be a great opening in starting the church in Otwock. The parents in Grójec certainly appreciated our work with their children. The kids themselves showed their appreciation by behaving with full cooperation and perfect politeness. It was a wide-open door for us to give clear, simple presentations of the Gospel among the children, the parents, and even the mayor as he accepted a copy of the Scriptures as a gift from Pastor Michał. Praise God!



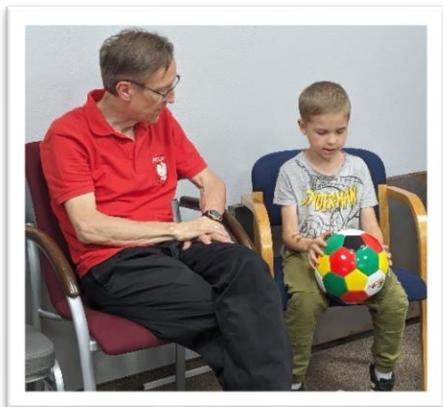
Joy Camps

Our friend, Henryk Posiadły, runs a ministry called the Joy Children's Ministry and organizes camps for children throughout the year. In our February prayer letter, we highlighted our first Joy Camp opportunity. Since then, we have participated in three more Joy Camps, teaching the Gospel Ball in a series of daily workshops. It has been a great opportunity to teach the Gospel to unsaved children as well as teach the believing children (and their adult camp leaders) how to share the Gospel with others.



In our March camp which extended over 5 days, we taught the Gospel Ball to over 100 children. Most of them were Ukrainian, currently living in Poland because of the war. Two of the groups came directly from churches in northwest Ukraine.

May's Joy Camp also extended over 5 days. The group was somewhat smaller (70 children), but we could sense the Lord working in a powerful way among them. During the workshops we were able to teach in Polish, elevating the need for full translation. This also helped us cover more material. On the final night of camp, many children came forward to put their trust in Christ. We had the opportunity to counsel a couple of them who made very solid confessions of faith.



Finally in June, we taught Gospel Ball Workshops in a week-long Joy Camp. That week was especially challenging for a number of reasons. It was a truly international camp, in that we had children coming from four different language groups: English, Russian, Ukrainian and Polish. As the groups rotated through, we had to switch from teaching in Polish to teaching in English with a translator. It was also challenging health-wise, as one child presented with the stomach flu early on in the week. Our population of campers diminished from about 110 children in the beginning of the week to significantly fewer as the week went on. By the end of the week



some of the leaders were also getting sick. We waited until the week after camp to “join in on the fun.”

We are thankful to God for the opportunities he gave us with these Joy Camps. Many times, the children had come from hard and difficult backgrounds, so they were not always easy to deal with, but they always left with a very solid understanding of the Gospel.

Grójec Move

Over this past year, we have been praying because we sensed the Lord moving us on to another place or town in Poland. We took the opportunity to work with two separate mission points which we have mentioned in previous prayer letters: Wołomin and Grójec. Over time and especially after this summer’s children’s ministry in Grójec, we’ve felt God’s guiding hand pointing us to the town of Grójec as our next place to live and serve.



Grójec is a growing city of 25,000 people. The county has 98,000 people and includes the city of Mogielnica where one of Ed’s relatives lives. Another relative lives in Mroków in another county closer to Warsaw, but also within the orb of Grójec. This is a fruit growing region, similar to Romeo, MI where I went to church as a young person. We will still be able to access many helpful resources in Warsaw, while still helping this new group.

We hope in time that this work will develop into a church and better serve the spiritual needs of people in this area. A believer living in Grójec would have to drive 45 minutes in any direction to get to another evangelical church. There are only a small number of believers there now. They are very excited about the once-a-month meetings and the children’s ministry we were able to do this summer. By moving to Grójec, we can be more directly involved with the group and also organize some long-term outreach activities to reach everyone in this area with an invitation to consider Christ. In our 10 years in Poland, this is indeed the best church planting prospect in which we have been involved.

As we prepare for our upcoming furlough, we are busy packing up our household things to keep in storage. When we come back to Poland in late January, we will be looking for a new apartment in Grójec and then move everything there. We’ve enjoyed our little Warsaw apartment by the Bródno Canal, but just as God has taught the ducks that we’ve watched to migrate at the proper time, God has shown us it is time to move on as well.

Furlough 2024

Furlough 2024 is fast upon us. We look forward to seeing many of you. If you would like us to visit you or your church, please let us know now, so we can be certain to make that happen.

Our general schedule is as follows:

September 17 - Travel to U.S. (Ray, MI)

September 23 - Toledo, OH

September 27 - Middletown, MD

October 3 - Houston, TX (CMC Conference)

October 11 - Richmond, VA

October 22 - Port Orange, FL

October 28 - Port St. Lucie, FL

November 6 - Cleveland, OH

November 12 - Ray, MI

November 18 - Richmond, VA

December 3 - Toledo, OH

December 6 - Ray, MI

January 13 - Richmond, VA

January 20 - Ray, MI

January 22 - Travel to Poland

Strengthening Disciples Through Our Mission Training Group

Many believers and ministry leaders bemoan the condition of their churches and ministries; they are smaller, weaker and prone to many difficulties. Our communities and even countries as a whole are more immoral, unwise and in some cases at war with each other. Since the Bible tells us the origin of these problems is spiritual, it is our great desire to push back on this trend of decadence and decline by . . .

STRENGTHENING DISCIPLES

AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO REMAIN TRUE TO THE FAITH

*The greatest need in the Church
and the greatest need in the Polish Church
is the spiritual strengthening of believers
in order to better accomplish the mission Christ has given to the Church
to make more strong disciples and form new churches.*



Acts 14:21-23 “They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, **strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.** “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.”

We do this by teaching people the Gospel (Story of Hope, Bridge to Life, Gospel Ball). We help believers become better followers of Christ through the spiritual training of personal Bible study, worship, prayer, confession of sin, right relationships, using spiritual gifts and witnessing. We further increase the effectiveness of disciples by helping them define their specific life mission and how that is producing spiritual fruit.

Like the Apostle Paul, we hope to continue this ministry no matter where we are or in what time live.

Acts 2:30-31 “For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!”

If anyone would like to be directly involved in our mission training group, please let us know. Think of this as a reform and revival movement that can spread and multiply everywhere with strong believers who are expanding God’s kingdom.

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. We are happy to announce the **engagement of our son, Ryan Daniel**, to Miss **Elizabeth** Kinder of Fairfax, Virginia. We are thrilled to see God’s hand of blessing on their lives, and we look forward to seeing them together in person. Ryan and Elizabeth are planning a January 18, 2025 wedding in Richmond, VA.
2. Please pray for the continued health of both of our **elderly moms**. Ed’s mom recently had a week-long stay in the hospital due to Heart Arrhythmia. She is currently home and doing better but doesn’t like to have to take medicine.



3. Please pray for the **Manets**, a large emigrant family that came to Poland in May. They have 7 children (ages 22 to 8). The father had been outspoken both about his faith and other societal issues: freedoms that we Americans take for granted. (Think Sound of Music, except there is only one musician in the group.) They have a small, temporary apartment in Warsaw, but need permanent housing soon because the children need to start schooling in September. With such a large family, it has been difficult to find suitable housing.



4. Please pray for **Grójec** and our **move** there. (Pronounced: Grew+yets)

5. Our mission agency, **Central Missionary Clearinghouse**, will be having their **50th Anniversary Celebration** October 6-9. We will be flying to Houston, TX for the first time to meet these faithful workers. Through their faithful service they have processed thousands of donations that have been necessary to fund our ministry in Poland. Their legal backing means we have qualified reports sent to the IRS every year and can get letters of recommendation to use in our legal and business matters. For all these services, they only deduct a small portion from our donations each month.



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

