

# THE SCHICKS

## DEVELOPING A HUNDRED POINTS OF LIGHT FOR THE GOSPEL IN POLAND

### A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

Transitions are always hard work. But, by God's grace, we have made it through another one: from Warsaw to Grójec! Thank-you for patiently praying and walking through this with us in your support and encouragement. The following articles include the fruit of our initial forays into this new field of service. Note also that each prayer letter has a box with updated contact information. Please let us know how the Lord is working in your life, especially if we have not heard from you in a while.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

*Ed & Leslie Schick*

### Rural Church Ministry

Most of our previous ministry involvements were in urban areas. Warsaw is the capital of Poland with 1.9 million people and quite a few evangelical churches. Lublin, with 325,000, is still sizeable and has a handful of smaller evangelical ministries. Chełm at 60,000 people, has a larger than typical Baptist congregation.

Zelow, as a smaller town of 7,000 has seen its small Baptist congregation grow to provide partial support for a missionary pastor. Now we are in Grójec, a city of 25,000. It is the county seat for the Grójec Powiat with its 100,000 inhabitants.

We are 30 minutes by car from the nearest Baptist church (Kalwaria). This congregation is still new and growing to provide services every Sunday. It has direct oversight and support of the mother church's pastor. If we drive 10 minutes further, we can reach our mother church in Otwock. This church has services every Sunday and a pastor who oversees their ministry, Kalwaria, and the new mission point of Grójec. The only other established churches are closer to Warsaw and require a 40-45 minute trip by car. Some believers in our city attend these churches. Others join us at the Kalwaria, Otwock and Grójec for church services.

There are about 10 evangelical believers in or near our city. While it would be great to quickly multiply this number and develop a new church like those in other bigger cities, it is not the best approach to accomplishing Christ's mission. The task He gave us was to make disciples everywhere, baptizing them and teaching them to live fully for Christ, serving the Church and continuing to spread the Word, with or without a full-sized independent church. So we are here to help Christ's church grow in number and maturity of disciples. When the number of believers reaches a sufficient number, we will organize further. We are currently in the process of registering Grójec as a mission point. Our focus is to work hard to better **meet the needs of believers in a rural area like this by:**

1. Connecting with **all the believers** we can and spending time getting to know them.
2. Establishing **small groups** which meet weekly for Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

#### CONTACT INFO

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3. Setting up local monthly **worship services** sponsored and led by evangelical churches in larger towns and cities.
4. Arranging for **transportation** for local believers to attend Sunday worship services every week in nearby evangelical churches.
5. Organizing **evangelistic ministries** to further the penetration of the Gospel in this local area.

As the Lord adds more members to this ministry, there will be more opportunities to increase the number and quality of these ministries. This includes the establishment of more evangelical churches closer to where believers live so they do not have to drive or ride a bus so far each Sunday morning.

### Grójec Bible Group

Every Monday we meet at a home of one of our families. Two other couples attend along with a teen. Another couple attends occasionally. One of the men led a study on the topic of training believers to help new Christians grow spiritually. Our current topic is Philippians. Occasionally Ed takes the lead when the other leader is absent. It was a little nerve-wracking in the beginning for him to teach in Polish, but it is good to stretch his abilities further. It helps that he has taught before on this topic three times as a pastor. We are hoping to expand the depth and size of this group over time.

### Church Services

On the second Sunday afternoon of every month, we meet at an education center located above some stores. The Kalwaria church provides the leadership in worship songs, sermons, the Lord's Table and fellowship. About 20-30 people attend including some from Grójec and Otwock. We often have new people who are believers or seekers.

### Camp Grójec

Summer is fast approaching and so is Camp Grójec. We continue to meet children who want to know if there is going to be a Camp Grójec again this summer. The answer is, "Yes!" Similar to last year, it'll be a 3-day Vacation Bible School complete with sports, arts & crafts, challenging and fun English Classes and good solid Bible teaching. We look forward to welcoming the team of 11 believers from Heartland Community Church in Ohio who are partnering with us and the Polish workers to make it all happen.

Because last year was such a success, we looked into renting a bigger facility, namely Elementary School #1. We spoke with the principal who was very much agreeable to having us come, however she quoted a rental fee that was unreasonably high for a nonprofit event. We were glad that our original building arrangement from last year was still available to us if needed, but we had really



*Members Bring Refreshments for Our Church Service*



*Leslie Teaching at Camp Grójec*

hoped to get something better. A few weeks later, our team met with the town mayor, Dariusz Gwiazda, who has been very sympathetic towards us and what we are doing in the city of Grójec. First we discussed the details concerning the Jewish cemetery cleanup project. He introduced this need to our ministry leaders in one of the first meetings. We agreed on a framework for taking care of the cemetery and making improvements where we can. We then brought up our problem concerning the use of the elementary school. Mayor Gwiazda agreed with our concerns about the price and promised to discuss the matter with the principal. We will now have a revised quote that should be significantly discounted. Please pray for our team leaders from Góra Kalwaria as they finalize the contract with the school next week.

The theme of Camp Grójec this year is God's Rescue Plan with John 3:16 as the theme verse. Our stories will be based on the Bible characters Noah, the Ethiopian Treasurer and Nicodemus. Please pray for the children of Grójec as they hear these clear presentations of the Gospel.

Interesting Fact: First name of the mayor is like "Darius" from the book of Daniel and his last name translated is "star." See Daniel 6:25-28, 12:1-3. This is why it is so important for us to pray for government leaders.



*Meeting with the Mayor*

## **Gospel Conversations**

Our main ministry goals center around making disciples by teaching people about God's plan in the Bible so they can make a decision to believe Christ and follow his mission for their lives. We have many opportunities to rub shoulders with community people in the normal course of life events. At the hair salon the other day, Ed made a point to the haircutter that many people do not know the Bible very well. She made a few excuses for why that is the case, but it was my privilege to offer the solution through offering Bible lessons or a self-study booklet like Story of Hope. Eventually we hope to offer Story of Hope classes to the public in a rented space like the local library or cultural center.

## **Wedding Trip**

Shortly, we will be returning to the US for a month (May 20 - June 18). Our son, Ryan, will be getting married to Elizabeth Kinder on June 7. We look forward to being there to witness and bless them as they join together in holy matrimony. We are also expecting another grandson during that time. Christian and Nishon, are the happy couple, and Calvin is the mostly happy brother. We are so grateful to God that we will be able to share in this blessing. We appreciate your prayers for us as we travel and for our children in each of their endeavors.



## PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

*On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God*

1. **Grójec Bible Group** - Continue and deepened ministry to believers in this area. Evangelistic opportunities and events. Clear communication and willing workers.
2. **Children's Camp** - Pray for each child and family that will be touched by this ministry and the Word of God.
3. **Legalities** - That a resident card application meeting would be available soon. For wisdom and skill for our lawyer and those who write letters of recommendation.
4. **Wedding Trip** - Safety and health in travels. Spiritual growth in family members through ministry opportunities and life events.
5. **Family** - Christian & Nishon are expecting baby #2 (grandson #4) in late May.
6. **War in Ukraine** - Pray for nearby countries to support Ukraine's efforts to regain its territory from Russia so that it can return to peace and freedom for all their citizens including and especially those who work spreading the Gospel.
7. **Polish Elections** – Poles will elect a new president May 18. One of the leading candidates has taken immoral positions on marriage and protecting unborn children.
8. **Świątajno Retreat** – This was a great time of fellowship and ministry from Word in a country setting.
9. **Cemetery Clean-up** – Pray for Stephen Reese and his team as they come in late July to work and witness at the Jewish Cemetery in our town.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 20 Flight to US  
June 7 Kinder-Schick Wedding  
June 17 Flight to Poland  
July 21 Heartland Team Arrives  
July 24-Jul26A Camp Grójec  
July 28-31 Cemetery Cleanup  
November 6-7 Missionary Network  
October 11 Ladies' Meeting in Grójec  
December 2027: Next furlough



*Campfire at Świątajno*

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

