

# THE SCHICKS

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

### A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

"These things we do, that others may live" is the official motto of the US Air Force Pararescuemen (PJ's). It signifies their self-sacrificial dedication to rescuing and providing medical treatment to injured personnel in the most dangerous conditions, often operating alongside elite special operations forces.

Their work was seen in the recent rescue of our fighter pilots who ejected over enemy territory during the war with Iran. Our soldiers spent many hours evading capture. That Easter weekend they hid in deserted terrain until their fellow soldiers could airlift them out to safety. It was a demonstration of the skill and courage of well-trained soldiers, and it contributed to the overall military success of operation Epic Fury.



Recently we've encountered some "dangerous situations." Not actual life-threatening battlefield drama with our lives hanging by a thread. But rather dealing with opposition and discouragements that come from pushing to the front edges of the Lord's work in Poland.

Looking back at recent months, the Lord continues to give us many discipleship opportunities in places which we did not previously plan to be. These divine meetings have come in smaller groups and in direct interaction with individuals with specific spiritual needs.

But all the opportunities are divine appointments, even the rough ones. They have His fingerprint on them that says, "I have purposes here, so just be faithful and you will see what I will do."

Below are some of these opportunities made possible by your faithful support of this ministry.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

*Ed & Leslie Schick*

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### Teaching Unbelievers the Gospel

We usually gather with Ed's Polish relatives on Resurrection Sunday. The conversation ranges from the mundane to the sublime and this time was no exception. Ed borrowed a basic theology book from our church's library. It was translated into Polish from a work by well-known author in the US. Ed used it as a starting point to engage in a conversation about salvation. Two of the relatives started to respond the topic for two reasons. They knew we had definite beliefs that allowed us to be certain of life issues now and about our eternal home in heaven after death. They knew these beliefs were rooted in Scripture and not in our own speculations or philosophical theories.

The second reason was because they realized more deeply this time that they were not able to engage this topic properly because a lack of knowledge of the Bible. Their realization of this was similar to what happened to an elderly Polish lady in the US who came to Christ a few years back. She said to Ed, "But I didn't learn Bible stories like you did when I was young."

This is why we are in Poland. To help everyone in our community to have the opportunity to learn about Jesus like we have had. The US is filled with opportunities to learn about the Bible. But Polish culture and the traditional churches here only give the basic minimums when it comes to Bible truths. The one Bible truth they never give is assurance of salvation. On Resurrection Sunday (and every Sunday) it is important to know that our death will not lead us to punishment in hell but to the glorious presence of Christ.

### **Helping Believers with Specific Areas of Difficulty**

Leslie tells this story: After a worship service, an older lady came to me. She was practically in tears. She said, "I believe in Jesus and his death on the cross for me, but if we are saved through faith, how do I know if my faith is strong enough?"

I showed her a number of passages of Scripture, then finally I told her, "you're asking the wrong question. Instead of asking about the strength of your faith, ask yourself, "Does Jesus have the power to save? Is his death on the cross strong enough to save me forever?" We can sometimes go up and down in our feelings. But when you're feeling unsure, stop and ask yourself, "Does Jesus have the power to save completely? Since he does, stop and thank him for it." When I said that, she smiled, not just with her mouth, but with her eyes as well. These ministry opportunities are why we're here in Poland.



### **Helping Ministry Leaders**

Like all work, ministry has its rough and tumbles. We always start out relationships and ministry partnerships with lots of hope and expectations of blessings and the advancement of the Lord's work. But we only work with sinners. And we are sinners ourselves. So, the chance of things going wrong is ever present. Thank-you for your prayers for us as we navigate changing partnerships both on the US side and Poland.

At a recent regional meeting of our churches, we were blessed by the presence of many believers who have walked with us through these many years of ministry. This reminded us to be thankful for all our ministry experiences.



### **How Does the Lord Provide Financially for the Schicks?**

The Lord says to us in Proverbs:

"Go to the ant; consider its ways and be wise!

Ants are creatures of little strength,

yet they store up their food in the summer." (Proverbs 6:6; 30:25)

Recently Ed was cleaning trash from a naturally beautiful trail on which he runs every week. Picking up a long-discarded bottle, he soon realized it was heavy and nearly full of some kind of dirt or compost. How did dirt get into this bottle while it sat there maybe for years on end? It was on a gravel railway bed and was not buried under the dirt. Finding another bottle just like it revealed the mystery: It was full of ants which no doubt filled it for their own purpose. Imagine how much an ant can carry. Think how many ants and how many trips they would have to make. So . . .

Q: How do ants fill a bottle?

A: One piece at a time, continuously, every day, every week until the job is done.

Sometimes we are overwhelmed by our mission from Christ. But if we are faithful every day with our time (opportunities, events) and treasure (material, money) the Lord will bless our work greatly.

A church in New Jersey just started a financial partnership with us. A few months back one of our retiree partners increased her giving. These increases in our support are greatly needed for us at this time. They were not a large portion of our support gap, but taken together over time, they are the financial reason we can serve on your behalf in the Lord's mission in this part of the world.



## PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

*On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God*

1. **Printing Volunteers** - We praise the Lord for four people who volunteered to print and post our prayer letter. This will allow some to send out our letters to about 40 people every three months and others can send out individual letters when needed.
2. **Local Church Ministry** - Please pray as we transition to a new local church ministry which includes getting to know the leadership and members.
3. **Health and Material Needs** - Last month we both endured a bout of flu, Leslie suffered a foot injury and we experienced a series of computer malfunctions. This kind of brokenness can really slow our work and enthusiasm. But the Lord allowed us to keep working and healing through this period. We are on the better side now.
4. **Legalities** - Our lawyer just informed us that our residency application has "grown old" and some documents have to be renewed. It has been a long wait since we submitted it last August.
5. **Leslie's Ladies English Bible Class** with three ladies every Thursday morning. Pray their understanding of God's plan will deepen to the point where they dedicate their lives to reaching everyone in their community with the life-giving message of the Gospel.

### CONTACT INFO

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#### **Sending Church**

Grace Baptist Church  
Brunswick, OH

#### **Service Agency**

Central Missionary  
Clearinghouse  
PO Box 219228  
Houston, TX 77218  
281-599-7411  
www.cmcmissions.org

6. **Witnessing Opportunities** in the community.  
Examples: Ed shared a few things about the Bible to his haircutter. Recently we went to the Apple Blossom Festival and met the family of one of our students in the summer Bible camp as well as some believers that we had not seen in a while.
7. **Ministry Materials** - Editing and printing.
8. **Meetings** with local believers and home groups.
9. **Ukraine and Her Churches** – Recently a church near Kharkiv was struck and burned.
10. **Family in the U.S.** – Three in Richmond, VA and two near Washington, D.C.
11. **Partnering Churches** – Pastoral changes as well as growth and outreach.
12. **Rededicate 250** – For spiritual and moral renewal of the US and other countries as well. Pray that we may live and serve in peace and freedom.



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

