

THE SCHICKS

DEVELOPING A HUNDRED POINTS OF LIGHT FOR THE GOSPEL IN POLAND

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

Every summer we've been in Poland has been different. By plan and design, we keep ourselves free to go to the available opportunities as the Lord opens and closes doors. For this summer our best opportunities have been with individuals and couples who have needed encouragement and aid of various sorts. But a few guiding goals keep us from mere earthly interactions and pursuits.

1. All our interactions are focused on helping people **grow spiritually** by meeting Christ in the Gospel and becoming a faithful follower of Him.
2. We train believers to be motivated and able to **share the Gospel** with their neighbors, that is anyone in their personal community. We use the Story of Hope and Bridge to Life for this.
3. We train believers to **disciple** children and new believers. This is the focus of our current publishing project "Way to Joy."
4. We challenge believers to personally **support a foreign missionary** by learning about them, praying for them and directly communicating with them.
5. We encourage **ministry leaders** to remain faithful to their calling and the Word of God.

We expect the Lord will soon open up opportunities with more individuals, groups, and churches who are willing to grow in these ways.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

Ed & Leslie Schick

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Sunday Ministries

Most Baptist Churches meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 or 11:00. There is a worship service with songs, sermons and prayers. Sometimes communion, baptisms, ministry reports and testimonies are included. After the worship service, there is a time to fellowship with hot beverages and cakes. Most of our direct discipleship ministry goes on in informal conversations. For deeper interaction, we sometimes meet with believers in their homes or in a restaurant. Pray for fruitful conversations that challenge people to go deeper in their spiritual walk and witness.



Leslie Trains Teachers

A willingness and a desire to be a children's Bible teacher is the first step to becoming a good Sunday School teacher. Unfortunately, in our experience, this is often as far as it goes for some. So many see the need to teach the children, so they jump in – but these teachers need training, materials and encouragement. It's not that there isn't good Polish Sunday School curriculum out there, it's just that so often there is no plan to use it. Teachers don't know what to teach, so they go online and search for free Bible lessons for children. Recently, Leslie sat down with the lead Sunday School teacher in one of our churches, gave her some samples of Sunday School material to look through, and helped her see how she can be a part of giving a child the rich heritage of Bible learning. Proverbs 2:9-10 "Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul."

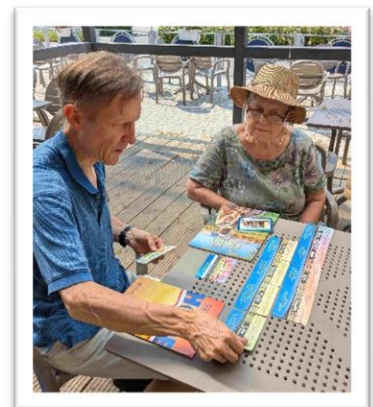
Helping Sergi Reach People

Sergi came to Poland from a nearby country. In spite of having to work hard to support his large family, he still takes time to give to others through a sporting event. Leslie and I have been to many 5K races. Most of them are organized by Park Run and occur every Saturday at 9:00am. Participants are very friendly and ask many questions and this usually leads to us explaining about our ministry in Poland. Sergi has also enjoyed running and witnessing to others. One of the things he does to connect with the runners is to serve them "tea" he makes from a recipe from his home country. Think mixed fruit lemonade. Thirsty runners can enjoy this beverage as an upgrade from the complimentary water. Sergi lives nearby and does not own a car. But how can get the lemonade to the race in pot, in a bag while riding a bike? Leslie and I mulled over this need and eventually gave a couple proposals to Sergi. He discounted the one, so we went with the other plan: a pressure cooker! The "szybkowar," as the Poles call it, has a water tight-seal for steam and pressure cooking. There would be little chance it could spill as it rides securely in the new bike basket we bought him as well. Maybe they are small tools for outreach, but they express our core values in promoting evangelism in Poland with those who are faithfully witnessing. And of course, his wife will be using it to feed their large family.



Teaching Tatiana How to Share the Gospel

When Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in 2022, with your support we were able to help many people. Some, we got to know for only a short time, as they passed through Poland on their way to other places. Others stayed and remained a part of our lives, and still others became like family. Tatiana (some may remember her as "Tatiana the Elder") is like family and so we make a point to get together with her from time to time to encourage her. In our last meeting she described her new living conditions. She lives in a single room and shares a kitchen and bathroom with another family. These are not easy conditions for an elderly



woman in her 70's who used to own her own home, but she is certain it is where God has placed her so that she can be a witness. As we talked, Ed pulled out his Bridge to Life Cards and showed her how she could use them to quite easily explain the Gospel message to her neighbors. Tatiana was eager to get busy using them, so we gladly gave her a set, along with a Ukrainian and an English Story of Hope Book.

Ukrainian Church Development

Many Ukrainians who came in 2022 have settled into life in Poland. The believers among them swelled the ranks of existing Baptist churches and spawned a number of new congregations. We have sought to encourage these congregations and their leaders as they have had to grow into their new roles in church life. Pray that they will be faithful to the Lord and will reach out to other immigrants who have yet to find Christ.



Marysia - Dedication while on Vacation

Marysia is the daughter of faithful believers who live just outside of Grójec. Many children ignore the adults in church, but the way Marysia has greeted us, you'd think we were her long lost grandparents. She truly is a sweet little nine-year-old girl. Just last Easter, Marysia's mother told Leslie of her daughter's marked new and fresh interest in spiritual things. Her parents could tell that Marysia was beginning to consider the personal implications of the Gospel. Because of all of the above reasons, Leslie decided to offer Marysia weekly English Bible lessons during her summer break. Each week, Marysia comes to our home to study English and then we close out our sessions in Polish, learning the points of the Gospel using the Gospel Ball. Marysia has been such an eager student. Her mother told Leslie that she insisted on bringing her English book, as well as her Gospel Ball study sheet on their family vacation. When she can recite the points of the Gospel Ball, along with the accompanying Bible verses, she will receive her own Gospel Soccer Ball. She'll get there. We see no need to stop a good thing, so Leslie plans on continuing her English Bible Lessons with Marysia into the school year. Please be in prayer for Marysia as she continues to hide God's Word in her heart.



PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. **Resident Card** - We are still waiting for approval even after the government ordered the immigration department to speed up processing.
2. **Health** - Good News: Ed was able to do some solo camping in a remote and undeveloped woods. Bad News: He battled ticks and eventually suffered a big rash on his leg. Thanks to a good doctor, medicines and tests there should be no further concerns. Leslie and I have enjoyed visiting various recreational areas in our region that are new to us. Poland has many hidden beauties.
3. **Leslie's Ladies English Bible Class** with three ladies every Thursday morning.
4. **Witnessing opportunities** in the community including ceremonies and festivals.
5. **Ministry Materials** - Editing and printing.
6. **Meetings with Local Believers and Home Groups** - Targeted discipleship to meet needs and help people grow spiritually.
7. **Encouraging Ministry Leaders** - We do many things to aid leaders in Poland. Some things are administrative things like helping to connect donors with ministries. We are regularly recommending and sending campers to Christian camps. We celebrate ministry milestones and spiritual milestones like baptisms. Sometimes special counseling is needed. Many of these go on out of the public eye but are necessary to keep ministries healthy and strong.



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

