

THE SCHICKS

DEVELOPING A HUNDRED POINTS OF LIGHT FOR THE GOSPEL IN POLAND

A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

Once again, the busyness of ministry has pushed our report writing into being later than we wished. Thanks for your patience and prayers. In our modern times of instant news flashes and short blurbs of information, our prayer letters may seem lengthy. But I assure you they give a truer picture of the Lord's overall working in Poland. Farmers don't harvest fruit after a couple of months. Soldiers don't usually serve for just a few weeks. And great athletes don't just train for weekend 5K fun-runs. (See 2 Timothy 2:1-7.) God bless those who have supported us with prayers, financial support and special helps that make what we do here count for the kingdom of God. Z Bogiem (God be with you),

Ed & Leslie Schick

Furlough 2024

We have just finished our four-month furlough and have safely arrived back in Poland. While on furlough, we had the opportunity to connect with many of our churches as well as most of our individual financial partners. Ed was also able to further help his newly widowed mom.

One of the highlights of our furlough was to celebrate with Central Missionary Clearinghouse's 50 years of ministry. We traveled to Houston, TX to meet these dear servants of Christ there in the home office. They faithfully process the many donations - your donations - which are necessary in funding 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 your donations each month.

During the celebrations at CMC, we met Gary Zimmerman, a missionary who has a passion for ministering to Jewish people. He offered each of us a portion of a very large Jewish scroll from the early 1800's, which he was able to purchase because it had been

deemed "not kosher" due to damage during the holocaust. He asked us to share our scroll with others as we travel as a testimony to God's work in preserving His Word and as an



CONTACT INFO

Schicks
Laskowa 16A M45
05-600 Grójec
S2P@EdSchick.com
www.EdSchick.com
804-332-5101 (US)

Sending Church
Grace Baptist Church
Brunswick, OH

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

opportunity to connect with Jewish people in our ministries. In the following weeks of furlough, we presented this scroll more than twenty times.

New Apartment

With help from Ed's Polish cousin, we were able to secure a new apartment in Grójec even while we were still in the US. This enabled us to move in right away after we arrived off the plane. Our good friend, Henryk Posiadły, from Joy Christian Ministries helped us move our household items from storage to the new apartment. It is a little smaller than our Warsaw apartment, so it is a bit of a challenge getting everything in just the right place. But it is a functionally nice apartment and has a good location and view of the city. We are thankful God has placed us here in the heart of Grójec.



The small group of believers here have been actively involved in ministering to each other as well as reaching out to people in this area. Ed preached last Sunday at the new mission point. The service was very well attended as we had to reach for more chairs and communion cups. The ladies have been working hard in planning a Ladies' Conference for March 1. Leslie has jumped in to help as well. She invited our landlord's wife, Marta, who received the invitation with great interest.

We are already making more connections than we expected partly due to the "small town" culture of Grójec. The plumber, the tv/internet guy and our new landlord are some of the people we have been able to witness to since we've been here. We go on "prayer runs" as a part of our daily aerobic exercise routine. It also helps us learn the layout of the town. We are looking forward to seeing spiritual fruit for the Lord in this new field of ministry. Grójec, where most of the apples in Poland are grown, seems to be ripe for the Gospel.

How the Lord Led Us Here

So how did we end up in a town like Grójec? It's an interesting story with a variety of moving parts, with the one overarching moving part - the Hand of God. But first, a little geography: There are four key places: Warsaw, Otwock, Góra Kalwaria (GK) and Grójec. Think of a bicycle wheel in which the diameter is measured roughly by 45 minutes of travel by car. The Hub is Warsaw. Otwock sits at 4:00 (east side of the Vistula River); GK sits at 5:00 (west side of the Vistula) and Grójec sits at 6:30 (west side of Vistula). There is also an American church that is involved in this story.

In 2023, Ed attended a church planting conference in Warsaw. It was exciting, but as he gathered his things at the end of conference, he asked God, "So, what next? Was I there to only talk about church planting? Or is there something else that I can DO?" Just as he finished his prayer, Pastor Michał Szlachetka approached him and invited him to speak at his church in Otwock. Knowing that God's servants should never say "no" to opportunities that he gives, Ed said "yes,"

Soon after that, the pastor of Heartland Community Church, one of our churches in Ohio, asked us if we were open to having a team come and serve in a 3-day children's outreach the summer of 2024. Though we didn't have any specific ideas at that time, we again said "Yes" to this great opportunity to do outreach ministry with supporting partners at Heartland.

Our "Otwock Sunday" turned out to be a double header, as Pastor Michał also invited Ed to preach that afternoon at a newly formed church in GK. Leslie also shared the Gospel Ball

with the children. Ed sensed a good partnership developing with Michał, so he asked him, "If an American team wanted to do a 3-day children's ministry in Poland, where would you recommend they serve?" Knowing that God's servants should never say "No" to opportunities that He gives, Pastor Michał said "yes." Then he said, "Let's do something in Grójec. This is our next area of outreach." That September they began once a month worship services in Grójec. We joined in, commuting from the other side of Warsaw. These were also opportunities to have meetings to plan our summer children's ministry.

The next summer, the team from Ohio came for Camp Grójec 2024, the first ever Vacation Bible School in Grójec. God was clearly blessing our partnership of Polish and American believers, working together for the sake of the Gospel. We were welcomed not only by the children and parents, but also by the town mayor. He asked if we could gather a team together to fix up the town's Jewish Cemetery. We took this as a clear indication from God that he was moving us toward to further ministry in Grójec.

So, here we are – finally on the ground in Grójec!

Ministry Plan for Grójec

So, what is our dream? How do we see God using us in Grójec and beyond?

We are Bible teachers. Using the Story of Hope booklet, we teach people to understand God's plan for them: God's Good News that brings salvation and multiplied blessings to our lives.

Our dream is to train willing believers in Gospel ministry in small groups in Grójec as the county seat and then each of the surrounding towns using the Story of Hope. New believers will be discipled using the Way to Joy booklet. Right now, there are two groups meeting: one in the city and one in a nearby town.

Willing believers will be trained and strengthened in their personal mission and evangelism opportunities both personal and group events (ex. Children's Camps, Women's Conferences, Christian music in the city square.)

May God bless the workers who answer His call to work in His fields.

Looking for Fruit in Grójec

It's wintertime. In the fields around Grójec, there are rows and rows of small trees with thick trunks and thin branches. No leaves, no buds, no fruit. The locals and of course the farmers themselves all know what will happen in a few short months. All that will change as the cold season gives way to more sun and more warmth. If an outsider wanders around Grójec and the surrounding towns and villages, they will see typical Polish life and culture. Spiritually they will see many pious folks attending the traditional churches and following their liturgy and rituals. At first one may not see the real fruit: believers who are faithful to Christ, his Word and his mission. But they are there. We have met with some and we will be meeting with more in the upcoming weeks and



months. We don't have a church. We don't meet every Sunday. But we meet in homes and humble rented facilities in order to worship the Lord, learn the Scriptures and live out genuine discipleship. Please pray for us as we get to know believers in this area, encouraging them in their mission and challenging them with the great goal of reaching each of the 100,000 people of this county with the life-giving message of the Gospel.

Cemetery Ministry: An Opportunity to Impact Our Community

As we mentioned previously, the mayor of Grójec has asked us to help clean up the local Jewish cemetery. This may sound like an odd outreach opportunity to a town largely made up of Gentiles. There are decimated Jewish cemeteries scattered throughout Poland with virtually no Jewish population to care for them. When you consider the history of Poland and the Holocaust, these cemeteries are a constant reminder of a very sad history. During the Holocaust among the Poles, there were many listed as "Righteous Among the Nations," but we also know that some were not. So, cleaning up the Jewish Cemetery has a very public and redemptive side to it that the population of Grójec (and beyond, as Jewish people often come back to visit the cemeteries) would appreciate.

Our Polish partners have designated July 28-31 to be Cemetery Workdays. If anyone would like to join in helping with this project, we invite you to come to Poland from July 24 - Aug 4. The work will be hard but, we hope you would be blessed to be a part of ministry here in Poland.

PRAYER AND PRAISE ITEMS

On Our Knees and Giving Glory to God

1. Prayer: Our moms' health.
2. Prayer: Spiritual needs of our extended family.
3. Praise: Christian & Nishon are expecting baby #2 (grandson #4) in May.
4. Praise: Help with move by Ola (Polish Cousin), Henryk Posiadły and the believers in Grójec.
5. Praise: Our Belorussian family continues to make progress in Polish and assimilation in Poland.
6. Praise: Sergiy, the Belorussian husband and father, is active in witnessing and compassion ministries.
7. Prayer: Quick and efficient filing for Polish Residency Cards and driver's license for Ed.
8. Prayer: Upcoming evangelistic events in Grójec.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 1 - Ladies' Conference in Grójec
- July 20-29 - Heartland Team coming to Poland
- July 24-26 - Camp Grójec 2025
- July 24-Aug 4 - Opportunity for American Workers - Operation Cemetery Clean-up
- July 28-31 - Jewish Cemetery Ministry



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