

# THE SCHICKS

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

### A Message from Your Ambassadors

Dear Prayer Partners,

Its hard to believe how much has happened in our ministry since the busy summertime. We are trying a new format in this letter. Instead of stories we just group our activities and experiences over the last three months. Our aims are always the same: teaching God's plan for us from the Bible and inviting people to faithfully, follow Christ. We hope these can be examples for your own evangelistic outreach as well. We would really love to hear of your evangelistic activities especially those done through your local church. Please drop us a line by email, social media or even a phone call.

Z Bogiem (God be with you),

*Ed & Leslie Schick*

### Personal Witnessing

When Leslie stopped by the bakery one Tuesday, it seemed dark inside, but since the door was unlocked, she went inside anyway.

The owner, Monica was behind the counter and right away apologized because they were having problems and were not able to serve customers. But then she said, "Oh, but since we don't have any customers, maybe we can talk." She said, "I've seen you at the worship services in Grójec.

Do you ever teach English?" Leslie told her that she had in the past, but was not presently. Leslie was open to helping but said, "We have one rule - that my **English** teaching be connected with **Bible teaching**, because that is why we are here in Poland." Monica said, "Super!" So they exchanged contact info. Leslie urged her to include others to fill out the group. Soon there were two more ladies all gathering together each Thursday to converse in English and study the Bible using The Story of Hope. Monica and her husband are a part of the new and growing edge of our ministry in Grójec.

One of our older members, Helen told us that 12 years ago she **witnessed to a lady** and gave her a Gospel of John. She had prayed for Mindy and her husband over the years. Then, when our group worked on the Jewish Cemetery last July, Mindy decided to join in with the group. She has some Jewish roots and was impressed with how our group worked together. Helen told her about our monthly worship services. Mindy said that she would like to come. The next Sunday, Helen waited outside the building for Mindy and her husband, Ralph, hoping they would come. They came; Helen was overjoyed; and the congregation gave them a warm welcome. This reminds us of Psalm 126:6 (continued)

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Those who go out weeping,  
    carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy,  
    carrying sheaves with them.

## Community Contacts

Leslie and I often join community events to support our city and its values. Being the fruit capital of Europe, you would expect an **Apple Festival**. The one last fall was held at the newly renovated, old train station. The last event was the **Independence Day parade** and ceremony highlighting Poland's post-World War I restoration as a nation.



One Sunday as we were leaving Grójec to go to our church in Otwock, Ed noticed a group of people outside of the **county jail** waiting to visit their friends or relatives. There were young children among them. What deep needs they have! Surprisingly, our guest preacher that morning had been in jail ministry and currently organizes **evangelistic concerts** on city squares throughout Poland. As Ed engaged in conversation with this gentleman, he said he was hoping to come to our city to do another event. When his team came, it was a cold morning with light rain. Not many listened to the music and testimonies, but the few that did were open to conversations. Since we had a planned **Monodrama** that evening, we took the opportunity to invite those in attendance to come to that as well. One of the women from our morning ministry came to the Monodrama. We really appreciate those who come to our city to help with evangelism.

Besides a potential jail ministry we also are praying about **ministering at the local hospital**. We have a retired nurse in one of our home groups who might have some insight in this new venture.

One of our members, Helen, proposed we set-up a **Bible table** at a bi-annual community **garage sale**. She knew a Bible distributor who would give us enough copies for any who was interested. Ed also wandered among the other sellers and engaged them in conversation, some of which touched on spiritual issues. About 14 people took Bibles.



## While Doing Business

Some of you may remember the **Torah scroll sheet** we were given last year. It is a great testimony to the Bible's preservation. One of our partners gave us some funds to **frame** it so we could put it on display. When ordering the frame we engaged the sales associates in a discussion of the ancient text and asked them about their understanding of the Bible. There are so many in our personal communities that need to hear the loving message of Jesus and his plan to help them with their greatest need: salvation from their sins.

On a cross-country run late last summer as Ed was exploring a field near a tree line, he noticed a set of multi-colored beehives. As he went closer, a lady saw him and immediately came out to ask if he needed something. He simply said "No" because he wasn't prepared at the time to converse about his interest in **beehives** and his experience in caring for bees. He was sure he could come back with a better opportunity to talk and

maybe buy some honey if they were the owners. About a month later, we met Michael and Anna and bought some honey from them. We talked about their father's honey company and Ed's grandfather's hives in Ukraine. It was a get-to-know-you conversation, but when our honey runs out we hope to return and share more.

Recently we passed a young **lady walking down a busy county road** with a large suitcase in tow. As we drove past, Leslie noted right away, "She looks tired." Though it was a chilly day, she had her winter coat unzipped, suggesting she had already had quite the workout getting to where she was. We were on our day off and heading to a woods for a hike. It was a perfect opportunity to help her. We decided to turn around and ask her if she needed a lift. She gratefully said, "yes," and said that she was going to the bus station, a couple of kilometers down the road. Ed remembered ruining a few suitcase wheels on a road in Ireland a few years ago. When she got in the car we noticed her Ukrainian accent, but her Polish was clear enough that we were able to converse a little. Later as we said goodbye, she said "Szczęść Boże!" This literally means "praise be to God!" She was giving praise to God for our help! May the Lord receive praise for everything that we do. "Szczęść Boże!" is also used as a special greeting to those who are involved in full-time ministry. In any case, we hoped to lighten the burden of her travel and point her to the Lord who has helped us with so much more.

### During Recreation and Exercise

One day **on a run**, as Ed neared a construction site, an older worker greeted him with "Szczęść Boże!" In the context, this would not be a typical greeting. The gentleman went on to say something that Ed did not understand. Did this man know Ed was a pastor? Did he see Ed at a ministry event? It couldn't have been based on what Ed was wearing. Some evangelical pastors wear a clerical collar at special events. Ed's sport clothes were a far cry from that. In the end, it seemed that it was the Lord's way of encouraging Ed in his pastoral and evangelistic role in Grójec.



### At Our Church

One Sunday at our church in Otwock, a special **evening of worship** was announced. Christian young people in Poland like to organize special worship services with something added or different than the typical Sunday morning service. They use them as opportunities for outreach similar to outdoor music evangelism. In this case they would be presenting some international music including some songs in Spanish. As is our practice after each morning service, we try to get to know people in the congregation especially new people. On this occasion, there were a couple of young people who were new. They appeared to be of a different nationality and were not speaking Polish. As it turned out they were **Colombian**, which meant they spoke Spanish! They understood the announcement about the special worship event and were hoping to attend. Leslie was especially interested in their church experiences in Colombia because she had served there as a short-term missionary years ago. Unfortunately, whatever Spanish she may have known in the past has been pushed aside in her brain to make room for the Polish. But one of them spoke fairly good English. We haven't seen them since, but we continue to reach out to internationals like them because the Lord has been sending a steady stream to our church.

We continue to minister through a once a month **worship service** in Grójec. At this point we do not have highly skilled translators. To ease the anxiety level of the willing, but fearful translators, Ed decided to preach his **sermon** directly in the **Polish**. His goal was to use a simple sermon format and to make the Polish clear and understandable. His back-up plan was to print a full outline so that the attenders could follow the sermon even if Ed's Polish wandered off his clarity goals. Ed has since preached a second sermon which seemed to go even more smoothly than the first. He also began leading the communion services in Polish as well as teach the weekly Bible lesson in a home group in Polish. These are great milestones of language ability after being in Poland for 11 years.



God has powerfully used **Sunday School** in the lives of countless believers around the world. Both of us have been blessed with the rich heritage of having been raised in a Christian home and brought to Sunday School on a regular basis from an early age. The lessons we learned about God have stayed with us and have guided us throughout our entire lives. We are grateful to the **teachers** – and to our **parents** – who made Sunday School a priority. Just this past week, Ed learned of the home going of one of his own Sunday School teachers, Bill Wagner. It was with great emotion Ed recounted to Leslie the impact Bill had had in his life.



**Leslie** was recently tasked with **organizing** a Sunday School for the children who attend our worship services in Grójec. Three ladies with varied experience levels have offered to help teach. Beyond curriculum selection and scheduling, Leslie's greatest task is one of discipleship. By **training the teachers** how to properly prepare to teach a Sunday School lesson these ladies will grow spiritually. Please pray for them as they seek to give God their best and to be a blessing to these six children.

## With Our Fellow Ministry Leaders

One important activity missionaries participate in is ministry leaders' conferences. Ed attended a **pastor's conference** in Warsaw. This allowed him to meet with other pastors. Some he had worked with in the past; some were new; and some we may work with in the future. It is the same with



other **missionaries**. Recently, we met in Warsaw with 50 foreign missionaries serving in Poland. Interaction with others doing similar work allows us to swap ideas, be encouraged and be an encouragement to others especially new missionaries. We both attended a reunion with our colleagues at the **Word of Life camp** near Łódź, where we taught English

a few years back. During our time there we shared our Good Soil evangelism tools after which two workers ordered some materials and are still actively using them. We toured WOL's expanded campus which has allowed them to host groups throughout the year including our church's annual conference.

Recently our church joined the **morning service of a church nearby** so that our three **baptismal candidates**, along with their two candidates could use an indoor baptismal pool instead of a river on a cold day in November! We were glad to see many members from other Warsaw churches. In the picture to the right, notice how everyone, and especially the children, gather to watch the baptism up close. This is one of our favorite things about baptisms in Poland.



Our pastor had just returned from a mission trip to Pakistan. Another pastor was about to start a 10-day mission trip to teach as a professor at a seminary in Africa. Polish churches rarely support full-time **missionaries**. It is great to see these men fulfill Christ commission by going beyond their own borders.

## Other Needs

**Financial Needs** - Our financial picture has improved somewhat. We are still in need of about \$750 a month. One church is considering taking us on for regular support. We need two more churches plus some individuals. It is hard to measure the size of the team we need, because some of our donations do not come in regular intervals. But in the big picture as God sees it, his faithful workers will provide what's needed to support harvesters like us in His harvest field.

**Legalities** - Our residency applications are still waiting for a decision regarding our 3-year permission to be in Poland. Our car registration update and Ed's Polish driver's license are next.

**Health** - We don't take our health for granted as we get older. Prevention is the "cure" for cancer so we take yearly tests, most of which are easy and very inexpensive in Poland. Leslie had one further test which was clear. Ed has some digestive issues that are yet to be resolved.

**Family News** - Our family ministry includes being patriarch and matriarch to our five children, their families and four grandchildren. Two of them have changed jobs this year and two more are now looking for work. We also appreciate relatives and friends who take care of our Jeep (recently moved), our mail and our belongings.

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

