

Steven D. Reece

From: Larry Schlesinger <RabbiLAS@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 12:02
To: <sdreece@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Introduction

Great letter. Let me know what you receive in response.

Rabbi Larry Schlesinger

On Jun 26, 2012, at 11:50 AM, "Steven D. Reece" <sdreece@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Frank,

I met this past Thursday with Rabbi Larry Schlesinger of Temple Beth Israel in Macon, GA and he suggested that I contact you regarding our work.

I am the founder and president of The Matzevah Foundation (TMF), which is a 501 (C)(3) public charity incorporated in Georgia in late 2010. Our foundation was established by a small group of Baptists who have been working in Poland in a very specific mitzvah since 2004. The mission TMF is to educate the public about the Holocaust and to lead Jewish cemetery restoration projects in Poland.

Our mission grew out of my work with the Baptist Union of Poland in strengthening and establishing Baptist congregations in Poland. I lived and worked in Poland for twelve years and the idea for these projects grew out of my understanding of history as well as my desire to "act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly before" my God. Consequently, I established a working relationship with the Jewish community of Warsaw and I have led roughly ten Jewish cemetery restoration projects in which several hundred Baptist volunteers from the US and Poland participated.

Over the past eighteen months, I have worked to develop our foundation and establish Jewish cemetery restoration projects in Poland. I continue to work cooperatively with the Rabbinical Commission for Matters of Cemeteries in Poland and with Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland. From my association with Rabbi Schudrich and his commission, he directed us to consider working with the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland (FODZ). Last August, we established a partnership with FODZ to restore the Jewish Cemetery in Zambrów, Poland and since that time we have worked to develop the parameters for this project. This Jewish cemetery restoration project will entail the cleaning of the cemetery and the building of a 515 meter (1,700 foot) wall. It is a three year, quarter of a million dollar project that will begin phase one this summer.

Also over the past year, I have established a partnership with the Auschwitz Jewish Center, which is affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City to bring volunteers to restore the Jewish cemetery in Oświęcim, Poland beginning in 2013. Oświęcim is the city Nazi

Germany called Auschwitz. We will also be working in at least two possibly three other locations in the coming years as our work in Poland flourishes.

My purpose for writing you is to introduce the work of our foundation to you and to seek your assistance in interfacing with the Jewish community of Atlanta. I live in the Dunwoody area and would like to meet with Jewish leaders living within the Atlanta metropolitan area and introduce them to our work. Rabbi Schlesinger suggested that I contact you and Wayne Martin and seek your assistance in networking with representatives of the Jewish Federation and the Rabbinical Association of Atlanta.

If you would consider assisting me by introducing me to Wayne Martin, I would greatly appreciate it. I realize that I am unknown to you, but as you can see, I have developed a great deal of trust and credibility within the Jewish community of Poland. I am trying to establish that same level of credibility here in the US as well and engage the Jewish community in this vital mitzvah. I would be happy to discuss with you our work by phone at your convenience. My number is 404-663-2383.

Thank you in advance for any consideration that you might give in this matter.

Respectfully,

Steven

Steven D. Reece

President, The Matzevah Foundation, Inc.

Mailing Address:

7742 Spalding Drive, No. 480

Norcross, GA 30092-4207

Mobile: 404-663-2383

Email: sdreece@matzevah.org

Web: <http://www.matzevah.org>

<image001.jpg>

<image002.png>