

KOMISJA RABINICZNA DO SPRAW CMENTARZY

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Warsaw January 11, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

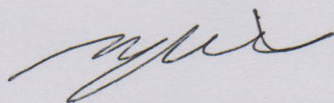
Scattered across the landscape of Poland are roughly 1,200 Jewish cemeteries bearing testimony to our presence in Poland for nearly a thousand years. Our fathers established and built these cemeteries according to our law and tradition as a means to honor and care for our dead. Due to the devastating loss of the Shoah, many of these cemeteries lie abandoned and neglected today. For us, the Jewish Community remaining in Poland, caring for these cemeteries is our mitzvah; nevertheless, it is a taxing and overwhelming mission. Accordingly, we have welcomed assistance from inside and outside our Jewish Community and for this reason we have cooperated with both Jew and Gentile in this mitzvah.

One such person with whom we have collaborated is Steven D. Reece, a Baptist Christian, who understands the vital importance of this mitzvah. Since 2005, Steven has worked closely and cooperatively with us through the Rabbinic Commission for Jewish cemeteries in Poland. I know of his work directly through my former representative, Aleksander Wąsowicz, who kept me abreast of Steven's work and his contributions to this mitzvah. We are thankful for Steven's heart and his passion for us expressed by serving us, according to our wishes, beliefs and practices.

The Jewish Community of Warsaw therefore, knows Steven and his work well. He has labored to mobilize volunteers and resources from both the United States and Poland to work in our cemeteries for over six years. These volunteers have worked in cemeteries in Warsaw, Otwock, Sochaczew and Pruszków. Their contributions are innumerable and have allowed us to restore and repair walls, establish boundaries and clear and remove debris, which has enabled us to catalogue and preserve vital information for Jewish families all over the world. However and most importantly, his partnership with us has allowed us to care for our dead by which we honor them and our tradition.

Steven would like to continue his service to the Jewish Community of Poland by engaging both Jews and Gentiles in this mitzvah. Steven has demonstrated his trustworthiness and his faithfulness to us in this mitzvah. Therefore, I would like to recommend Steven to you and ask you to consider assisting him in any way possible, as he seeks to mobilize teams and resources in America in order to continue in this vital mitzvah. If you are able, please help him and send him to us to the place where our *"fathers are buried,"* so that he can continue his mitzvah to us.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Schudrich
Chief Rabbi
Jewish Community of Poland

