

Letter dated December 24, 1956 from Nicholas Zastowsky in Elizabeth, NJ-Emilia's brother

Dear Brother in law and Sister,

I have not written for a long time nor have you. I guess everything is fine therefore there is no need to write.

I have received letters from our brothers, Oleska and Ivan and Ivan's children (son Wasyl and daughter Helen Kravetska). Helena had a transfusion after childbirth and is fine but the baby died. She is asking for help because this was very costly. She has a large debt and employment is difficult. I have not written back because I have not decided what to do.

Now I have received a letter from Helena- daughter of our sister Zoshka. She lives in Poland and married 2 years ago. She would like me to send her something that she could then give to her mother. Her mother is poor and it is easier to send packages thru Poland. I have not written back!!

Our brother Oleska writes that he will visit Zoshka in the spring. It is easier to travel now from behind the Iron Curtain. I sent Oleska a bicycle in March. He sold it for 15,000 zolty. He bought his son a suit and an old bicycle that he could use for transportation to work. This helped him a little but he needs more. I am unable to help everyone.

It is not worth sending packages from the USA because the customs fee is extremely high. If you send a package thru an agency the receiver does not have to pay a fee. It takes 3-4 months to receive a package. Using an agency in NYC is the easiest.

Now our sister in law, Wasyl's wife, from France has written that Wasyl died 2 years ago.

The cemetery plot was not paid for and now the cemetery wants the plot back. Please help in paying for the plot!! I have not written back yet!! I always send \$10 in each letter. She did not send a letter until now asking for help. She did not even thank me for the money that I was sending and why she waited a year to respond to my last letter. My wife suggests that I do nothing but I want to help.

Yesterday I received a letter from our sister Zoshka. She did not write much but wants to know if I received the letter. When I write back she will write more about her life. Her life is minimal and she wants to know about us. Her daughter, Helena, lives in Poland. Her son is married and she lives alone and another son is in the army. She does not mention her 4th child who was killed in Ulucz when the Russians came in 1945. Helena wrote that in 1945 when her mother and father and 2 small boys were taken, she and her brother hid. Her mother cried and wanted to know why Helena did not want to come with them. The Russians heard this and they started to search. The Russians did not find her but did find her brother and immediately killed him (this is the 4th son). Eventually she was able to get to Poland. She got married and had 2 children. I sent her scarves several times which she did get.

Zoshka wants your address but I will wait to send it until I receive a response to this letter.

Now I will write about myself. My son and I are healthy and both of us are employed. I work at night and my son during the day. Daughter, Rosi, is well and married and has a one year old son, Wayne. My wife is sick, hospitalized with pneumonia for the last 2 weeks. She has been in and out of the hospital and has had 2 transfusions. She does not sleep well and is weak. This has been a very difficult time for me and my son.

Now I would like to know whether you heard about Ulyanochka, daughter of Andrew Uchnyk who married Michael Chychry. She emigrated to Germany then to America. If you know about her please write within 1 week.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Waiting for your response. Bye bye.

PS. I would like to know if your family can help monetarily. Please gather \$5 or \$10 from your family at holiday time. Then I will send the money to Helena Kravetska and Helena

Pufky (married name Pszyblska) or to our sister Zoshka and brothers. I am not pressuring anyone but please write your answer yes or no within one week.

PS. Theodor Husak, husband of Zoshka Churovoji, is asking for medication. Medztbrodsky wrote that his wife, Julia, passed away. Her sister Katy Lewkowich lives near you.