



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

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“It would be amazing if there was a Bible study and discipleship group of students from my university,” Fabian (fah-BEE-ahn) told me (Jordan) and our teammate Alex as we met with him on his campus in Graz, Austria.

Over the last six months, our team in Slovenia has been partnering with our Cru colleagues in Austria to help them launch movements of students. A few towns with universities in Austria are actually closer to us in Slovenia than to the staff in Salzburg, Austria. Since we have a larger team and have had training in launching movements through distance coaching, we're grateful to help partner with them in reaching more students for Christ in this part of the world.

Some of our teammates met Fabian during a one-week launch in March, and it's been a huge encouragement to see his heart for the Lord and for reaching other students.

“I want to talk about Jesus with my classmates, but I'm not sure how to start. Can you help me?” Fabian asked us. We were so excited to answer that question! We love helping students take steps of faith and giving them training to engage their friends and classmates with the gospel.

Alex and I encouraged Fabian to start by asking questions about what his friends and classmates believe to genuinely understand them and their worldview. We also encouraged Fabian to use the “*Sometime*” strategy of asking his friends, “Could I share more about why my faith is important to me *sometime*?” We've found that many people are willing to hear more about our faith if we just have the courage to ask.

Graz is a two-hour drive from us in Ljubljana, but meeting with students like Fabian make the day trip totally worth it. I was so encouraged by our time together. I'm hopeful that Fabian and other Christian students in Graz are just the start of a growing movement that helps others know Jesus and grow in their relationship with him.

I'm excited to coach students like Fabian and to help him and others continue to reach out to others through evangelism and Bible studies. We're grateful for the opportunity to reach students in and around Slovenia with the gospel, and we thank God that you're a part of it with us.

Helping students know Jesus through your partnership,

Jordan + Niki



Alex and Fabian (right) snap a picture together on the campus of Fabian's university.

Prayers

- o Pray for Fabian to continue to grow in his faith and for courage to share with his friends.
- o Pray for the believing students we know in Slovenia and Austria to continue to walk closely with the Lord over the summer and to grow in their faith.
- o Pray for a healthy pregnancy for Niki and for a healthy baby (see insert for more info!) Pray for peace as the lingering fear of something going wrong weighs heavily on us at times.

Praise

- o Praise the Lord for opportunities to reach students in Austria and to help launch new ministries in neighboring countries.
- o Praise God for students like Fabian who love Jesus and want others to know him.

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Family Update | June 2017



Our sweet Raegan Jane turned two years old on June 22! We had a birthday party for her here with our teammates and Slovene friends. Raegan loves to eat (anything, at any time), play with household objects like dishes and tissues, look in the mirror, and snuggle. She has a deep belly laugh that brings joy to the whole room. We speak English and Slovene with her and I'm sure in a few short years she'll be more fluent than either of us =) **We also have exciting news to share**—we are expecting another baby, due December 18, 2017! I am 15 weeks along and all of my doctor's appointments thus far have shown a growing, moving little babe. We praise the Lord for this gift of life. Thank you all again for your support and love after our miscarriage. Your prayers for our trust in the Lord throughout this pregnancy and for a continued growing and healthy baby would be so deeply appreciated.

