



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Have you ever had an opportunity you couldn't believe was real?

Our team had a once-in-a-lifetime chance to interact with young people who are open to God but don't necessarily understand how salvation by faith works. World Youth Day provided that unreal opportunity and proved once again that the harvest is plentiful.

Cru was invited to be official evangelists at World Youth Day—a worldwide Catholic youth event that takes place every three years. The event organizers realized that many of the young people coming to the conference may attend church but don't necessarily understand the gospel and what it truly means to follow Jesus. They asked Cru staff and students to come help explain the message of the gospel to as many people as possible. What an opportunity!

Krakow, Poland was flooded with young people carrying flags, singing hymns, performing on stages and sharing their testimonies. Over one million people traveled to participate in the weeklong conference. Some came because their friends were going, others came to meet new people, but most came to experience God and grow in their faith.

Cru staff and students interacted with over 5,000 attendees. Many people camped at the event, and Cru was able to utilize charging tents where people could plug in their phones. Meanwhile, our students and staff engaged them in spiritual conversations. In a single week, 300 people accepted Christ and over 130 students were challenged to become leaders for Jesus on their campuses!

Seven Slovene students joined us for the conference and were trained in how to share their faith. They gained experience in communicating the gospel and left with a greater passion and desire to reach their families, friends, and classmates in Slovenia.

One student involved with our ministry in Slovenia, Mateja (muh-TAY-uh), shared her testimony on stage with over 2,000 Italians watching! Italian is her third language, but the Holy Spirit gave her the grace and ability to communicate clearly in the listeners' heart language.

Polona (puh-LOW-nuh), a student Niki has been discipling, also attended. She has been growing in her relationship with the Lord over the last year, and this was a huge step as she shared her faith more in the week at World Youth Day than ever before.

Praising God for how he is at work in the lives of young people around the world,

Jordan + Niki



From left to right: Katie, Bojana (boy-AH-nuh), Tjaša (tee-YAH-shuh), Teresija (tear-EE-see-uh), Adrijana (ah-dree-ah-NUH), Jay, Polona, Mateja and Jana (YA-nuh) posing with Slovenia's flag.

Prayers

- o Pray for the 300 students who trusted Christ. Pray they would get connected to churches and ministries in their countries and continue walking with the Lord.
- o Pray for the 130 students who were challenged to be leaders on their campuses. Pray God would use them to impact their universities for Christ.

Praise

- o Praise God for the thousands of conversations we were able to have and for the seven students who joined us from Slovenia. Pray God would continue to work in the hearts of those we met.
- o Praise the Lord for the amazing opportunity our team had to be at World Youth Day as official event evangelists.

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