



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

January 19, 2015

Singing Christmas songs in another language, with a room full of students who will soon hear the true message of Christmas, is an exhilarating experience.

Crowding into our student center, Americans and Slovenians sang Christmas carols together, in both English and Slovene. More than 30 students joined us to celebrate Christmas and learn more about the significance of the day when God became man.

We met several students newly involved with our ministry, while connecting with old friends as well. As I (Niki) talked with a newer student named Urban, I was reminded of several things. First, how desperately Slovenes need to hear the gospel, and second, why I'm certain God has us here for a reason. Urban asked me why Jordan and I came to Slovenia.

I shared with Urban how placing my faith in Jesus changed my life; that while I was in college I reached a point of feeling utterly empty, realizing the party lifestyle I was living wasn't as fulfilling as it appeared.

Then, when I got connected with people my age who loved Jesus and were living their lives for him, it opened my eyes to how different (and better!) my life could be. I told him that after coming to Slovenia on a six-week summer mission's trip, I felt compelled to offer students here the same opportunity I had during college—to know I wasn't alone, that there is a more satisfying way of life, and that there is only one thing truly worth living for above all else—God's glory.

Urban was intrigued by my answer and continued to talk with my teammates throughout the evening. He also had the opportunity to hear from Nina, a student leader who shared the message of the Gospel—who Jesus is and what Christmas means not just for Christians, but also the hope his birth, death, and resurrection offer people around the world.

We thank God for how he has transformed Nina's life, and pray that students like Urban would believe in and receive Jesus—and that as we continue to interact with students they would see the love of Christ and fullness of life he offers.

Helping bring the hope of Jesus to Slovenia through your partnership,

Jordan + Niki



We squeezed together for a group shot at our annual Christmas party, one of our biggest events of the year.

Prayers

- o Pray for Urban. He is spiritually open and interested, but has some New-Age ideas about the purpose of life. Pray he would see Jesus clearly and place his faith in him.
- o Pray for our Staff Conference, which we're currently attending. Every four years, staff from Eastern Europe gather together for a time of refreshment, vision, and quality time together. Pray we would learn, grow, and leave with a greater desire to see God known in our countries.

Praise

- o Praise God for the students who joined us for the Christmas party, and especially for Nina who shared her testimony and the gospel. Pray that students would continue to think about Jesus and ask questions about what they heard.
- o Praise God for a healthy pregnancy for Niki so far. We've found a great doctor in Slovenia, and everything with the baby is going smoothly. She's over her nausea for the most part and is feeling pretty well.

Contact Us

Address

Pleteršnikova ulica 28
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Email

Jordan.Shirkman@cru.org
Niki.Shirkman@cru.org

Phone

J: 330-608-9756
N: 330-904-7596

Staff Account

#0642948