The Shirkmans

Jordan, Niki, Raegan, Everett, Griffin & Adler Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

August 26, 2021

10 years. It was 10 years ago on September 1 that we officially joined staff with Cru. We began as interns at our alma mater, Ohio University, with the intention of going overseas to Slovenia the following year on a one-year commitment. In that one year, the Lord worked in our hearts and we felt him leading us to serve in Slovenia long-term. And here we are, having now spent eight of the last 10 years in Slovenia trusting the Lord to raise up a movement of Christcentered laborers to reach their nation and the world for Jesus.

We couldn't have imagined this is where the Lord would lead usfour kids later, still in Slovenia, thousands of conversations, hundreds of students interacted with, a mission that is still captivating and having the opportunity join with the Lord and see his kingdom advance across Slovenia. We had no idea what the Lord had in store for us when we said "Yes!" to his call, but it has surely been better and more fulfilling than we could have ever dreamed.

When the Lord called us to Slovenia, Matthew 9:37–38 struck our hearts, "Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." We truly believe that the harvest in Slovenia is plentiful and that God is raising up laborers from Slovenia to reach their own country, families, villages, schools, and neighborhoods. Many things have changed for us over the last 10 years—we have adopted new ministry strategies, seen our family grow, and said goodbye to teammates. But God and his mission remain the same, and we're so thankful for his faithfulness to us through partners like you.

We look forward to continuing to offer students the true and abiding hope that only Jesus can brings. We're excited to continue to trust the Lord for his plentiful harvest. We're grateful beyond words to stand beside you as we trust the Lord together. We couldn't be here without your faithful prayers and partnership with us. It is truly an honor and privilege to labor together with you.

Laboring in the Lord's harvest with you,



This photo is from our first year in Slovenia in 2012, a year after we began working with Cru. We are so grateful for the Lord's faithfulness and your partnership with us over the last decade of ministry, and we're thrilled to see what he has in store for the future in Slovenia.

Prayers + Praises

Praise God for his faithfulness to us, our team, and the students we've worked with over the last 10 years. Only the Lord knows the full extent of all he's accomplished through our partnership with you.

Praise God for a huge answer to prayer: just a few weeks ago we received our long-term visas which are good for 10 years.

Pray for our team as we prepare for students to return to classes this fall. Pray for wisdom for us as we continue to explore new ways to meet students and offer them the eternity-changing message of the gospel.

Pray for our intern Kaja, whom we wrote about in our previous newsletter. Pray the Lord would provide everything she needs so she can begin working with our team as soon as possible this fall.