



# The Shirkmans

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

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**On December 5, 2024, we received a call in the middle of the night that turned our world upside down: Niki's dad had passed away unexpectedly at just 59 years old.**

Five days later, our family traveled back to Ohio for the funeral, choosing to stay through the New Year to be close to our loved ones during this heartbreaking season. Just two days before Christmas, Niki sat by her grandma on her dad's side, holding her hand as she passed away peacefully at the age of 92.

The past six weeks have been filled with heartache and grief. The circumstances surrounding these losses have been deeply challenging—being far away when it happened, the suddenness of his passing, the complexities of international travel as a family of seven, and the pain of celebrating birthdays and holidays without loved ones for the first time.

Even before these losses, the past few months were filled with situations that caught us off guard, shook us to our core, and brought us to tears. But nothing prepared us for this tremendous and unexpected loss. It has been a hard and refining season, forcing us to place our hope and trust in God in ways we never have before as the ground beneath us feels shaken again and again.

Charles Spurgeon, the 19th-century Christian preacher, once said, "I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages." Since the birth of our youngest daughter, Selah, in September, we've had countless opportunities to "kiss the waves." Yet through it all, the Rock of Ages has not moved. He has not forsaken us. He remains our faithful and unshakable foundation.

Amid this season of grief, we have still seen God at work in Slovenia in great ways. He is drawing people to himself, equipping his followers to become multiplying disciples, and caring for us through friends and teammates both here and in the US. We continue to trust him, long for the hope of the Resurrection, and eagerly look forward to the day when he will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

*Jordan + Niki*



*We will cherish the memories we made with Niki's dad, Mike, and grandma, Doris, over the years and continue to cling to the Lord in the midst of our sadness.*

## Prayers + Praises

Please pray for our family. Pray for comfort from the Lord as we grieve and for the nearness of Jesus to sustain us. Pray that we would continue to be vessels of his grace, even in the midst of our own sadness and loss.

Pray for our team. Pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and perseverance as we seek opportunities to reach those far from him, to equip followers of Jesus to make disciples, and to walk in unity as a team, even amidst the challenging personal circumstances many of us are facing.

Pray for Slovenia. Pray for disciples to be raised up in this nation. Ask God to use Slovenes to reach their own people. Pray that the vision of multiplying disciples of Jesus would capture the hearts of believers here and transform lives across the country.

## Contact Us

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