



# Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

January 25, 2016

**When we planned a one-day trip to Salzburg, Austria with some of the students we're connected to, we never imagined the bigger plan God had in store.**

We prayed that 35 students would join us so we could have extra time with them during a weekend before Christmas and a break from their university classes. We planned to rent a bus for the three-hour journey and spend the day exploring the Salzburg Christmas markets and enjoying quality time with students.

We certainly didn't expect what God would do: he filled two charter busses full of students from eight nations who are all studying in Ljubljana!

We planned the trip with the intention of going deeper with students we already knew, but it turned into an outreach event that brought exchange students from countries like Turkey and Krgystan—places with very few Christians.

At the end of the trip, we invited students to fill out a spiritual interest survey. Over half of the 70 students who came said they were interested in discussing who Jesus is and other deeper questions of life.

I (Jordan) had a chance to connect with Julian, a freshman Slovene student who is interested in spiritual things and identifies as a pantheist (someone who believes God is in everything, including inanimate objects). I look forward to chatting more with him about who Jesus is.

I also met Jovan, a Macedonian who is a full-time student in Slovenia. We made a plan to go skiing sometime this winter, and I'm excited to see how God uses our new friendship to create opportunities to share the gospel with Jovan.

We're praying that as we reconnect with these students the Lord would open doors for us to share the good news of Jesus with them. Praise God for how he works in unexpected ways!

Reaching students from around the world with the gospel through your partnership,

*Jordan + Niki*



*A group shot of all of us before setting out to explore Salzburg.*



*All three of us (including Raegan, tucked in the corner here) got to visit Salzburg with students.*

## Prayers

- o Pray we would be able to reconnect with the students who went to Salzburg and are interested in hearing more about Jesus.
- o Pray for new opportunities to connect with students as they enter into their month-long exam period, a time that is typically more difficult to meet with students.

## Praise

- o Praise God for how he used our trip to Salzburg to meet new students who are spiritually open.

## Contact Us

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## Family Update | January 2015

Miss Raegan is such a happy and smiley baby! We are loving every minute with her. She loves to snuggle, chew on her feet (and everything else, for that matter), and is a fan of sweet potatoes. This week Raegan will take her first flight as we head to a conference in Spain! Pray for a smooth journey.

God has blessed us with wonderful community in Slovenia. Our teammates, church friends, and other Slovenes. On New Year's Day our landlords (the wife, Vesna, pictured with us here) invited us to their home near the coast. They are an incredibly thoughtful, caring, and generous couple. We thank the Lord for the many sweet people he's placed in our lives, who make living away from family and friends in the US easier.

