



May 29, 2018

# Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

What's the normal process of a student coming to faith in Jesus and staying connected to our ministry?

We've found that while many students say they are open to new spiritual ideas, it is usually difficult to help them engage with the gospel, wrestle with the truth of the Bible, and come to faith in Jesus without first developing a sense of trust with us. While in general Slovenes seem to be more open to foreigners and outsiders than their own people, building trust is critical in helping them see Jesus for who he truly is. In a culture that often views religion as corrupt, we want to help students see that while all humans are sinful, God is incorruptible and worthy of our love and worship.

Part of our strategy over the past few years has been to "knock on the side door of their hearts" as we seek to share the gospel with students. In a similar vein to how Jesus first began talking with the woman at the well about water and physical thirst, we hope to meet the personal needs of students while sharing the gospel with them in a way that makes sense and meets their deepest need for a relationship with God.

One program God has used over the last two years is our SpeakOut English camp for high school students. Slovene students are already great English speakers, but they are excited to improve their conversational skills and spend time with American university students. These American students are believers who join us for six weeks to help reach more students with the gospel. Two students came to faith in Christ through the camp last year—Urh (ur-HUH) and Larisa, and others like Anita and Barbara are still connected to us and considering who Jesus is.

*Upgrade* is another program we started that focuses on personal development. Three students have come to faith through this program already—Nina, Blaž (BLA-shh), and Jure (YOU-ray). Through the program we help students identify and improve their strengths and weaknesses, but we also help them see their underlying need for a relationship with God as the foundation of all personal growth.

We're incredibly grateful for how the Lord has used both programs to bring these five students to faith in Jesus! They are all still vitally connected to our ministry here and are taking steps of faith to share about Jesus with others.

Trusting the Lord for a movement of students following Jesus in Slovenia through your partnership,

*Jordan + Niki*

## Come see us this summer!

We'll be having a meet up on Sunday, July 1 in Akron and Wednesday, July 11 in Canton. See the enclosed insert for more details.



*A photo from SpeakOut camp last year. Larisa, a new believer, is on the far left.*



*Nina (left) came to Christ through Upgrade and now meets regularly with our teammate Cydney.*

## Prayers + Praises

- o Pray for God to continue to draw students to himself and to help us engage them with the gospel in creative ways.
- o Pray for Urh, Larisa, Nina, Blaž and Jure to continue growing in their faith, to stay connected to the Lord and our ministry over the summer, and to help their friends, families and classmates know Jesus.
- o Praise the Lord for these five students who have become believers over the last year.

## Contact Us

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## **Connect with us at an open house, meet Everett, and see Raegan!**

Come enjoy lunch, dinner, coffee or a treat on us this July. Just let the cashier at the register know that you're here for Jordan and Niki and we'll take care of the bill.

**Sunday, July 1**

**1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Panera - Arlington Ridge  
790 Arlington Ridge  
Akron, OH 44312

**Wednesday, July 11**

**4:30pm - 6:30pm**

Panera - The Strip  
6543 Strip Ave NW  
North Canton, OH 44720

Please note each open house is at a different Panera location. If you aren't able to attend but would still like to connect with us, please let us know!