



# The Shirkmans

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

March 27, 2020

**The world sure feels different than it did a month ago.** Many things have changed: most students have left the city and gone to their hometowns as classes have been moved online, there's a country-wide ban on being in public in groups larger than 5 people, every non-essential business has closed its doors, and there's a real sense of fear and anxiety in the air.

And yet, some things remain the same: the Lord is at work, students are sharing their faith (online), we're connecting with students (online), and Jesus is still seated on his throne.

We feel incredibly grateful for the way Slovenes and the government have responded to the COVID-19 crisis. Extreme precaution was taken to limit the spread of the virus here, and it seems, at this point, mostly under control. As you know, Italy, our neighbor to the west, has been devastated by this crisis. The situation here is much more stable and less traumatic. As of this writing, there have been 632 confirmed cases in Slovenia and nine deaths. The number of confirmed cases is doubling about once every eight days at this point, which is thankfully a relatively slow pace.

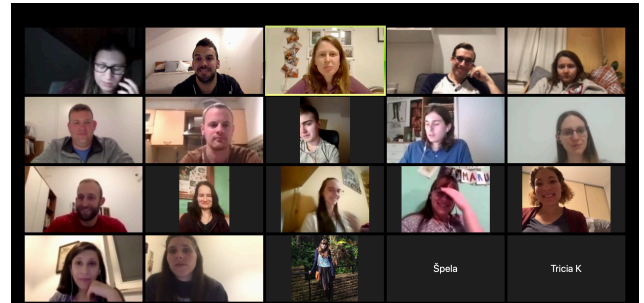
Before this crisis began, we had already been engaging with students online in a variety of ways. We now continue to learn, try new things, and even coach others in ways we are finding students online who are interested in reading the Bible and discovering who God is. Though this is an incredibly challenging time in our world, we continue to pray that the Lord would use this to soften hearts and open eyes of Slovenes to Jesus. We're praying that the uncertainty of the future would lead students to a steadfast, loving God.

Personally, our family is doing well and we're continuing to adjust to this new season of life mostly indoors and without much movement outside of our home. We are incredibly grateful for you, your prayers, and your partnership with us. We are praying for health, safety, and peace for you in the midst of this pandemic. You are on our hearts and in our prayers.

We would love to know how we can be specifically praying for you during this time. Please send us an email and let us know how the COVID-19 situation is affecting you.

Offering the hope and peace of Jesus to an anxious world through your partnership,

*Jordan + Niki*



*This is a very familiar sight for us these days. This is a screenshot of our online weekly meeting with students to read the Bible and take steps of faith together.*

## Prayers + Praises

Please pray for continued opportunities for us to interact with new students online and for our believing students to continue to take steps of faith and share with their friends, even from a distance.

Pray for the safety of students who are quarantined in abusive homes. We know of at least one student we're connected with that comes from an incredibly dark home and we're praying for the Lord's protection.

Pray that the Lord would use this situation to draw many people to himself from around the world.

## Contact Us

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## Family Update | March 2020



**Raegan** will be 5 years old in June. She is such a thoughtful, fun, caring and creative girl. Raegy loves coloring, make-believing, and anything that involves our whole family being together. She's been in a dance class since the fall and really enjoys it. She has an incredible memory and always wants to help others.

**Everett** is 2 years old. He is our kind, wild and snuggly toddler, who is always on the move. Ev loves being outside, reading books, playing with balls and trucks, and eating any form of bread. He is talking so much these days and loves being a big brother.

**Griffin** is 9 months old. He is a snuggly, sweet and fairly calm baby, always wide-eyed and taking in the world around him (of which his big siblings offer plenty of material). Griff loves finding tags on things, rolling all over the place, and clapping. His laugh melts us and he gets lots of attention from his siblings.