

Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

October 18, 2012

"I think I've met you before," said a woman I (Niki) thought I was meeting for the first time.

A teammate of mine asked me to join her for an appointment with a student she knew. As I sat across from Laura, she recalled meeting a Niki at a cafe near the one where we were currently drinking lattes. I didn't recognize her at first. Then my mind was suddenly flooded with memories that began to come together. When I was here three summers ago, my friend Kelly and I had a spiritual conversation with Laura and her friend. During that conversation, we had the chance to share the message of Jesus with them.

For the last two and a half years, I never heard from or about Laura again. Unbeknownst to me, Laura met with a woman from the year-long STINT team that came after I left. In fact, she's continued to meet with members of STINT teams year after year, even to this day.

I had goosebumps and held back tears as I saw how God had brought a woman once just curious about faith into a relationship with Himself. Just a few months ago, Laura made the decision to receive the gift of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus. It's incredible to think that I had the opportunity to plant seeds of faith into Laura during my short time here two summers ago.

Witnessing the transformation in Laura's life gave me great energy and perspective for why we are back in Slovenia. Even though in the moment it may seem there is no obvious fruit from my steps of faith, God is always faithful. He is working in peoples' hearts long before and long after my conversations with them.

I consider it no coincidence that we crossed paths once again. God is continually reminding me that He is in control and longs for Slovenes to know Him far more than I ever could. The whole experience has humbled and encouraged me tremendously. I now have the privilege of meeting weekly with Laura to come alongside her as she grows in her faith in Christ.

Remembering "...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus," and trusting God in Slovenia through your partnership,



Laura and I at a cafe in the center of the city after our first "re-meeting."

Prayers

- Pray for Laura. Pray she would continue to grow in her faith and become a disciple of Jesus who walks closely with Him and influences others for Christ.
- o Pray for the dozens of new students our team meets each week during evangelism. Pray that God would work in their hearts over time and bring them to saving faith as He did with Laura.
- o Pray for Študentska Arena--the student involvement fair that takes place October 23-25. Pray that we would have an opportunity to connect with at least 1,300 students--equal to the number of Student Planners we will be giving away--and that we would have opportunities to share the gospel many of those students.

Praise

o Praise God for the fruit we've already seen. Over 20 different students have come to our Bible Discussion Group in the first two weeks, and we've met a few believers during our evangelism on campus!