



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

January 24, 2017

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:4

Our year began with more tears than we could have imagined. We hoped to be sharing news of great excitement and anticipation with you, but instead we invite you into our grieving.

In November, we found out I was pregnant with our second child and we were elated. On New Year's Day, however, after some mild symptoms and a trip to the ER, we were given the heartbreaking news that the doctor couldn't find our baby's heartbeat. Our sweet babe should have been measuring 12 weeks and instead was only six weeks.

The utter heaviness that filled our hearts in that moment is difficult to put into words. A time that we expected would be filled with great joy as we prepared for the arrival of another baby is now a season of great sorrow and loss.

In the midst of a grief we have never known, we have truly felt the Lord's nearness. There is an underlying peace from God that is unexplainable from a logical perspective. I'm typically someone who wants to ask a lot of questions and be able to fully understand a situation. But in his grace the Lord has allowed me to feel a deep sense of peace amidst what could be devastating confusion and bitterness.

We have a deep confidence that the Lord is with us and walking beside us through this tragic loss. How thankful we are for a Savior who sees our pain, who is able empathize with our weaknesses, who himself was a man of sorrows. The greatest display of God's love for us was in sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and die for our sin that we might live with him for eternity and one day experience a restoration of all that is lost on this earth.

The reality of living this side of heaven is that we will have suffering, but the Lord is ultimately working it together for our good. Though truthfully I would trade this suffering for the gift of holding our baby in my arms in an instant, I do not doubt God's goodness or faithfulness to us for a moment.

God has been gracious in surrounding us with people, both near and far, who love and care for us deeply and tangibly. We ask for your prayers for our family during this season of grief—that Jesus would heal our hearts and grant us wisdom to trust him in this time of loss; that our hope, rest, and confidence would be in Christ alone; and that God would use our suffering to bring glory to himself and demonstrate to the watching world the truth of our faith and the grace and glory of God.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and messages. If we don't reply or it takes awhile for us to reply, we appreciate your understanding and pray you know how thankful we are for you.

Truly grateful for you, your prayers, and your partnership,

Jordan + Niki

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