

Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

August 16, 2012

Imagine this: 80 Cru missionaries from across the United States, gathering together to be equipped, encouraged and prepared to launch spiritual movements around the world to reach students for Jesus on some of the most unreached campuses on earth.

We had the opportunity to spend a week in Portland, Oregon to learn about leading our STINT (short-term international) Team in Ljubljana, Slovenia this upcoming school year.

At our Team Leaders Training Conference, we were prepared to succeed in the four L's we focus on for our year abroad: *Love the Lord, Love Your Team, Learn a New World* and *Launch a Movement*. The training helped us wrap our minds around the daunting task of continuing to grow a young ministry in Slovenia while walking with the Lord and leading our team.

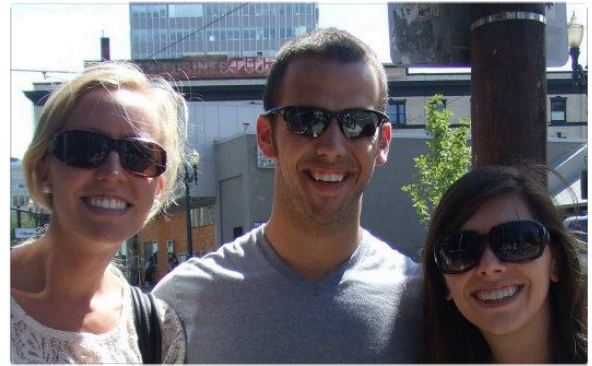
Currently, our movement in Slovenia has 12 Christians involved. Dozens of other non-believers who are wrestling with the claims of Christ are vitally connected to our community as well. We are trusting that this year God will continue to grow the ministry and help mature young believers in their faith. We're also praying that students will begin to own and lead in the ministry while growing in their desire to reach their peers for Christ.

We spent time learning from seasoned veterans who have led ministries in East Asia, Eastern Europe, and all over the United States. The conference prepared us to resolve team conflict, lead our team into uncharted waters, manage complexity and ambiguity, and trust God for great things.

My (Jordan) temptation is to just go out and try to pioneer things on my own instead of learning from others who have demonstrated the experience, know-how and faith to launch a movement of Christians abroad. I'm certain that the time spent learning from their successes and failures will allow us to hit the ground running when we arrive in Slovenia next month. It's a wonderful blessing to learn from experienced Cru staff who have been in our shoes. We're grateful for those who spent time building into us to prepare us to reach lost students in Ljubljana.

Growing in our effectiveness to reach students for Jesus through your partnership,

Jordan + Niki



Niki and I, along with our teammate Sally, on our day in the city meeting Portlanders and sharing our faith with them.



Cru staff members from the Great Lakes Region who are going all around the world to reach students for Christ this year.

Prayers

- o Pray for the 40+ STINT teams around the world: that the leaders would lead well and that lost students would become Christ-centered laborers.
- o Pray the Lord would continue to provide financially for our team of 11 heading to Slovenia.

Praise

- o Praise God for the experience and wisdom of those who spoke at our conference and for the many laborers headed to the world to share the gospel.
- o Our Slovenian visas have been approved! We should leave on time next month, near September 15.

Contact Us

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