



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

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What if we had to prove that we were worthy of salvation before we could be saved?

We know that we would all be hopeless because none of us can undo the sin we've already committed. Sadly, most Slovenes think they have to become better people before God will accept them.

The pastor of our local church in Ljubljana, Peter, gave us deep insights into Slovene culture and some of the barriers to students receiving Jesus. He came to Christ as a student 20 years ago, and he understands the obstacles, family pressures, and cultural conditions of being a Slovene.

"Slovene culture is a culture of works and merit. If you invite someone over for dinner, they'll say, 'Come to our place for dinner next week,'" Pastor Peter shared.

The good news of the gospel is that what Jesus has done for us is a free gift. God has offered us eternal life through faith in Christ out of his love and kindness—there is nothing we can do to repay something so out of this world!

That wonderful offer is difficult for Slovenes to accept because grace and free gifts are foreign concepts. They feel obligated to return all favors, which makes an impossibly generous gift from the Lord so difficult to receive.

"It can take a year from a first meeting for someone to come to church with you for the first time. The process for Slovenes accepting Christ is slow, but don't become discouraged," Pastor Peter reminded us.

Being patient as we trust the Lord to move in students hearts is an area we're still growing in. We're grateful for Pastor Peter and our church—a place we can bring students and a local community of Christians we can connect with, grow alongside, and learn from to better understand Slovene culture.

The cultural barriers to the gospel are high, but we're excited to see the Lord continue to move in the lives of students and knock down obstacles as he brings them to saving faith in Jesus.

Trusting the Lord for transformed lives through your partnership,

Jordan + Niki



Pastor Peter and his wife Lidija, along with their children Erik, Karis, and Lara.



The three of us after church. We're so grateful for our Slovene community.

Prayers

- o Pray for the Lord to break down cultural barriers to the gospel. Pray God would bring Slovenes to saving faith and help them understand grace.
- o Pray for our new online strategies that we're launching next month. Pray we would connect with students we normally don't get a chance to interact with.

Praise

- o Praise God for Pastor Peter, our local church, and for how God is continually at work in Slovenia.

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