The Shirkmans

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

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"People need someone who will help lift them up and give them hope. Maybe I can be that person to people here in my hometown," Matej (MUH-tay) told me (Jordan) during our second conversation online. He's 20 years old and living in a small town with his family as he finishes technical school to work in the social work field.

I began chatting with Matej a few weeks ago when he messaged our ministry page on Facebook. He responded to an ad about looking for the rest and hope that Jesus offers. The response to this ad has been incredibly positive, and my interaction with Matej is the fruit of God at work, helping people see their need for the rest he offers.

Matej has grown up in a culturally religious environment, but through our interactions it seems like he's realizing for the first time how to read and apply the Bible in his own life. He has a clear hunger to know God and a desire to help others know him too, even as he admitted his struggles to be bold and courageous in conversations with friends.

"I feel like God sent you into my life for a reason," Matej told me. When an interaction from a Facebook ad turns into an actual conversation, it does seem to have a divine purpose, since it's such a rare occurrence. It's a humbling and joyful opportunity to be able to enter into someone's life in a God-ordained way, and we are so grateful for the opportunities the Lord continues to provide for us.

I told Matej about our vision of helping raise up a movement of Slovenes who can be lights in every single town in Slovenia. He was inspired by that idea and told me, "I need a change in my life, and I need to really know God." We're praying that people like Matej would truly know God, would take steps to obey all of his commands, and would be able to help others do the same. We know that the Lord is the one who brings the change as we enter into a relationship with him, and we believe this change can work its way through individuals, families, communities, and countries as the light of the glory of Christ shines brighter and brighter across the world.

Helping reach and equip Slovenes for Christ through your partnership,



The Lord is at work in Matej's heart, and we're praying God would use him to be a light to many around him.

Prayers + Praises

Our fourth child should be arriving very soon as his due date of May 3 approaches. Please pray for peace and strength for Niki for labor and delivery, for our family to adjust well to a new baby joining us, and for continued health for Niki and the baby.

Pray for God to continue working in Matej's life. Pray that he would truly know and follow Jesus and that he would share what he's learning with others. Pray he would be a light to his community, friends, family, and schoolmates.

Pray the Lord would continue to lead us to spiritually open people who want to know God and read his word. Pray that they would then pass this along to others and be disciple makers in their communities.