

## Jordan & Niki Shirkman Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

March 27, 2018

"I would like to believe in a God like that," Jan (Yahn) told me (Jordan) as we discussed the parable of the prodigal son. The idea of a loving father who welcomed back his lost son into the family made a clear impact on Jan.

I met Jan at the end of last school year during his first year of university. At that point he had never heard Christianity described as a relationship with God by faith, centered on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Together Jan and I have been meeting and going through a sixpart series of short Bible studies created for non-Christians. Each study focuses on a different part of the gospel message, such as seeing God as a loving father, the weight of our sin, Jesus' death and resurrection, and what it means to make a decision to follow Jesus.

Over the course of our meetings, Jan has opened up and shared hurts from his past. At one point he described the deep pain he felt when his friends unexpectedly turned their backs on him and wrote him off. I listened to Jan, sympathized with him in his pain, and shared about the friendship God desires to have with each of us. I explained that the most secure relationship we can have is one with Jesus-the God-man who laid down his life for his friends.

As we met last week, I asked what he thought the deeper meaning of Easter was beyond the cultural traditions. He said he had never considered it. As we discussed the reality of our sin, Jesus' death and resurrection, and the message of Easter, Jan concluded, "There's still hope for us, even though we have sinned against God, he is willing to forgive us if we follow him."

Jan hasn't yet decided to follow Jesus, but we pray that God would continue to work in his heart and bring him to faith. We pray the gospel would change Jan's life and continue to change ours as well as we celebrate our risen Lord this Easter season.

Helping students in Slovenia know and experience the crucified and resurrected Christ through your partnership,



Jordan and Jan snap a selfie together after a meeting last week at Jan's university.

## Prayers

- o Pray that God would continue to reveal himself to Jan and that he would place his faith in Jesus.
- o Pray for opportunities to meet more students like Jan who are open and looking for more from life.
- o Pray for our student retreat April 20-22. Pray that 15 students would join us and that it would create deeper connections and trust among students.

## Praise

o Praise the Lord that Jordan and Jan met and for Jan's willingness to wrestle with Biblical texts and truths.

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