



# The Shirkmans

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

May 29, 2019

**“I don’t have any other groups or mom friends like this. Since my partner doesn’t believe in God, having our group and studying the Bible together means a lot to me. I’m so thankful for this,”** Urška (oor-SHH-kuh) a Slovene mom, shared during a recent gathering.

You may remember a few months back when I (Niki) shared about my dear Slovene friend, Ajda (eye-DUH). She is the friend I “randomly” met through social media, who at the time had also suffered the loss of a baby through miscarriage. Since we met two years ago, Ajda has become my closest friend here and our friendship is one of God’s sweetest gifts to me.

In the winter Ajda and I went out for coffee as she shared about her desire to start a group for moms in Slovenia. “Motherhood is so lonely and isolating here. It’s usually just women trying to look like they have it all figured out, but they don’t. I’d love to form a community where we can come together and encourage each other as moms.” Ajda asked if I would be willing to start this with her and I enthusiastically said, “Yes!”

We began by inviting any moms we knew—Slovenes and Americans, Christians and non-believers. After the first gathering at our apartment, we learned that all of the moms (whether Christians or not) were interested in doing a Bible study during our time together. This was a huge encouragement to us and gave us direction moving forward.

We’ve met together several times now and have had 5-10 moms join us each time. Many of our young kids are also present, so you can imagine that it’s loud and chaotic most of the time. Yet we’ve been able to read and study God’s word, share our challenges and joys, develop friendships, and form a sense of community during this season of motherhood.

One mom who joined us shared, “It feels so good to be a part of this group. I’m glad I was brave enough to come even though I didn’t know many people beforehand.” This encouraged me as I can relate to often not knowing many people in different settings here, but I was reminded of how rewarding it is personally and for others when we step out in faith and do what feels uncomfortable.

Even though life is full and busy with two young kids and a baby due next month, I’m incredibly grateful for this chance to connect with other moms as we look to Jesus for hope and endurance to do motherhood well.

*Jordan + Niki*



*Ajda and I with our “rainbow babies” (the kids we had after we each had a miscarriage), her daughter, Zarja (zar-EE-uh), and Everett, who are about five months apart in age.*



*Raegan, Everett and Amelia (daughter of our teammates) play together at the park on a recent sunny day. We are so thankful for the friendships we have with other families here!*

## Prayers + Praises

Praise God for this group of moms coming together, that he put this on Ajda’s heart and that women have been coming and opening up about their lives.

Pray for wisdom and direction for Ajda and me as we care for this group of moms. Pray women would come and know they aren’t alone in motherhood—not simply because of our group, but because Jesus loves and cares for them and their children deeply.

Pray for our family as we prepare for the arrival of our next baby at the end of June! Pray for a peaceful and smooth delivery, and for grace for each of us as we transition to having another baby in the family.

## Contact Us

### Address

Pleteršnikova ulica 28  
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

### Email

Jordan.Shirkman@cru.org  
Niki.Shirkman@cru.org

### Phone

J: 330-608-9756  
N: 330-904-7596

### Staff Account

#0642948