



The Shirkmans

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

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We don't often find students who are already following Jesus in Slovenia. But Dmytro (duh-ME-tro) was the exception.

In the fall, our teammate Michael and I (Jordan) met Dmytro through student surveys. As we met together the first time and got to know him, it was clear his life had been challenging. He is Ukrainian, and he lived with his grandparents until he was seven years old because his mom had to leave the country to flee an abusive relationship. Dmytro later joined his mom in Slovenia and hasn't been back to his home country of Ukraine since. Through continued trials in his childhood and adolescence, he became a hardened atheist.

That all changed when a Christian woman in his hometown began interacting with Dmytro's family. Through her kindness and persistence, Dmytro agreed to attend a Christian camp for high school students at a local church. While at first he bitterly rejected the idea of a loving God, the Lord used the love and care of the Christians around him to soften his heart. Over the next year, through continued interactions with these Christians, Dmytro surrendered his life to Christ.

As he came to university in Ljubljana from his hometown a few hours away, he was leaving all of his friends and he didn't know any Christians in the city. When we met over coffee, we heard a bit of Dmytro's life story and we shared the gospel with him, which he clearly already understood and believed. At the end of our first meeting, we asked how we could help him grow in his faith and he said, "I want to know how to share this message with others."

It's been such an encouragement to see how Dmytro has grown over the past six months. He regularly attends our weekly meeting for Christians, has helped lead multiple Bible studies, brought new friends who aren't yet Christians to our events, and has continued to take steps of faith in following Jesus and sharing the gospel with others.

"I want to live in a way that pleases God," Dmytro told me as we studied the Bible together one day. Dmytro has also been joining us at our local church on the weekends. We are so grateful the Lord led us to Dmytro in the fall and we praise God for the significant way he is working in Dmytro's life.

Helping reach and equip Slovene students for Christ,

Jordan + Niki



Dmytro and Jordan smile together outside a cafe during a break at a one-day conference for young Christians in Slovenia they attended last weekend.

Prayers + Praises

Pray the Lord would continue to help Dmytro take steps of faith to help his schoolmates and friends know Jesus. Pray he continues to walk closely with the Lord and that he is obedient to whatever God calls him to do.

Update on Jure's Health

In the fall, we mentioned that our friend and a student leader named Jure (YOU-ray) was diagnosed with cancer. We are thrilled to report that after one round of chemotherapy and multiple followup scans, the cancer has continued to shrink and has essentially disappeared! We are grateful to God for his hand in Jure's healing, for effective treatment, and for Jure's faith and trust in the Lord throughout it all. Jure has returned to work as he finishes his studies and has asked for prayer to not be overly stressed as he readjusts to balancing all of his commitments.

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