



May 20, 2013

"I can't imagine living in Slovenia for more than a year, away from my family and friends in the States. But I trust God's plan for our lives," I (Niki) thought to myself just a few months ago.

As I reflect back on these last eight months, I can't believe how much the Lord has done and how He has changed my heart. It's been a journey discovering what God has next for us, and we are happy to share with you that **we plan to return to Slovenia in the fall of 2014, for 3-5 years.**

Since we stepped foot in Slovenia in September, Jordan was ready to move here long-term. I felt overwhelmed at the idea. As the year progressed, I asked God to prepare my heart for what He had in store for us; that He'd help me lay any anxiety or fear at His feet, and that I would trust Him completely, being willing to follow wherever He would lead.

Prior to coming to Ljubljana this year, I wrote a blog post about what I would miss from the States, but also why I was willing to give up certain comforts from America. I wrote:

I'd give up those things forever if it meant:

- *a whole country of people being truly exposed to Jesus for the very first time*
- *meeting students who are hopeless, at the end of their rope, bringing them the hope of a Savior*
- *sharing my story with someone going through similar trials*
- *being obedient to God rather than disobedient*
- *putting the Lord's will above my own*
- *changing, growing and not staying the same*

I have days when the thought of moving back here seems impossible, and other days when God's plan for our future brings me a joy greater than I've ever known—a joy that comes only from following the Creator. Our Slovene friends welcome us like brother and sister, reminding me that those who are in Christ are one body, one family, united in Jesus.

We'll be moving back to Ohio in July as we go through multiple trainings to prepare for our long-term return to Slovenia and to reconnect with our ministry partners. We'll continue to develop a larger team of supporters for our long-term commitment. We are blessed to link arms with you as we trust God to reach Slovenia with the gospel. We look forward to sharing more stories of God's work over this past year and inviting you to continue partnering with us for the future.

Reaching Slovenia for Jesus through your partnership,

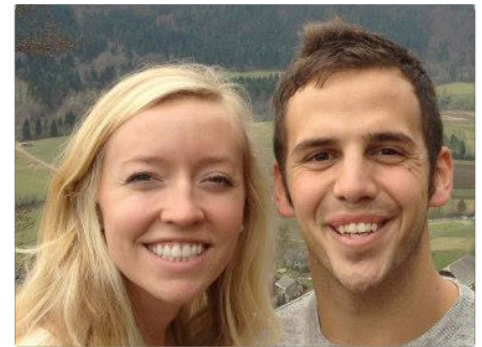
Jordan + Niki

Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia



Katja, one of our key student leaders, has become like family to us. Seeing her grow in her relationship with Jesus has been the highlight of my year.



Our first Thanksgiving together in Bled, Slovenia—the first of many to come.

Prayers

- o Pray that God would continue to prepare us and our family for His plan and our future in Slovenia.
- o Pray for more laborers to come to Slovenia long-term. Pray that God would continue to build a team of people who want to make Jesus famous here with us.

Praise

- o Praise the Lord for how He has worked in Slovenia this year. 11 students have come to know Jesus personally in the last 8 months.
- o Praise God for how He patiently guides us and directs us down the paths He asks us to walk. We thank Him that we never walk alone thanks to His Holy Spirit guiding us.

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