



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

Cru | Ljubljana, Slovenia

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It continues to amaze me (Niki) how the Lord truly cares about the intimate details of our lives. In the spring, I received an Instagram friend request from a Slovene woman I didn't know. Uncharacteristically, I accepted this stranger's request.

Minutes later, Ajda (eye-DUH) messaged me: "I 'accidentally' found your account a few months ago and loved seeing you live in Ljubljana . . . I just experienced a miscarriage during my first pregnancy. And today I've been reading through your blog and finding encouragement for myself in this time of pain and sadness. God's timing is perfect and he showed that once again by providing your blog and wise words in a time I needed them most! Thanks for sharing your story and heart!"

I was stunned and couldn't reply fast enough. Ajda and her husband Gašper (GAH-sh-per) are both Slovenes and believers in Jesus, a rarity among couples our age here. A few weeks later, we met for coffee in person and began a friendship that has been one of the Lord's sweetest blessings to me since living overseas. We've hung out many times in the last few months, and I always leave our times together feeling grateful, refreshed, and humbled at God's provision. Her prayers, intentionality, and encouragement exemplify to me how the Lord cares for us. Meeting her especially reminded me how God loves Slovenes and is at work in this country to bring more people like Ajda into a relationship with him.

As I've shared previously, our miscarriage in January was undoubtedly the hardest thing we've ever walked through. While I hate that Ajda knows this pain as well, I can't help but smile at how God uses our brokenness, our vulnerability, and our trials to draw us closer to others and himself. We are promised that God works all things together for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28) but that doesn't always mean we get to see it during this life. Graciously, the Lord has allowed me to see some very tangible examples of good coming from our pain, like my friendship with Ajda. We're also overjoyed that Ajda is expecting again and now we get to walk through pregnancy together!

Though ministry overseas may look different now in this season of motherhood, God has provided many opportunities for me to meet other moms, neighbors, and women to share life with. Friendships with women like Ajda make living in Slovenia feel comfortable and remind me that we serve a God who sees, knows, and cares for us in personal and specific ways.

Helping fulfill the Great Commission in Slovenia through your prayers and partnership,

Jordan + Niki



Ajda and Niki meeting for the first time for coffee at the beginning of their friendship.



At Raegan's birthday party this summer, it was wonderful to see the beautiful Slovene friendships God has blessed us with. (Left to right: Pia, Tanja, Niki, Lidija and Petra)

Prayers

- o Pray for a healthy pregnancy for Ajda. Pray against any fear and anxiety she and Gašper may experience as a result of their miscarriage and that they would trust the Lord moment by moment.
- o Pray for our start to the new school year—for boldness in sharing Jesus, wisdom in utilizing our time and efforts most effectively, and a deep dependence on God, not ourselves.

Praise

- o **We are overjoyed that we are expecting a SON in December!** Please pray for a continued healthy pregnancy and delivery.
- o Praise the Lord for the rich community of Slovene friends he has provided for us that greatly contribute to the health of our family and ministry.

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