



Jordan & Niki Shirkman

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"You have no idea what an impact everything is having on me here," Simon told me (Jordan), with a look of disbelief. **"It's the first time I've had doubts about what I believe in a long time."**

Simon attended our spring retreat in Millstatt, Austria last weekend. God obviously used it in a powerful way in his life. Our retreat was a transformational time for the 7 students that attended. Our regional director, Bill, spoke to us and our students about what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus. Simon was one of two non-Christians that joined us for a fun and truth-filled weekend.

I met Simon last September and we hit it off right away. He's sharp, witty, and a self-proclaimed skeptic. My teammate Steve and I have been meeting with him regularly since then, building our friendship, answering his difficult questions, pointing him to Jesus and praying he would place his faith in Christ.

Simon has been wrestling with the claims of Christianity for months now. He grew up with a Catholic background, but he's admittedly never had a relationship with Jesus.

"Sometimes at night I just wonder why we're here, and I realize that I really am lost. This life can't just be about getting a job, retiring and dying," he told me just a few months ago in a crowded student cafe. Although he's agnostic, he's seeking truth. He wants to know why he's here.

Simon understands, at an intellectual level, why Jesus came and what we as Christians are called to do. He asked and answered his own question when he said, "So how do you get people to follow God? I guess just keep doing what you guys are doing."

At the end of our conversation when he shared his fears of death and confusion about the meaning and purpose of life, Simon told me, "It's all building up."

After this weekend, it's clear things are continuing to build, and God is working in Simon's heart. Would you join us in prayer that Simon would surrender his life to Christ soon and walk closely with Jesus for the rest of his life?

Laboring for the God who brings skeptics to faith through your partnership,

Jordan + Niki



Simon and I at our Christmas Party in December.



A group shot of our students and team at the end of our weekend in Austria.

Prayers

- o Pray that Simon would meet Jesus. Pray God would continue to use what Simon learned this weekend to draw him to faith.
- o Pray for the 30 American students joining us for a six-week missions trip who will arrive on May 8. Pray God would use them in powerful ways here.

Praise

- o Praise the Lord for the students who came to the retreat. The Christians who joined us left with a greater knowledge of Him and desire to help other people follow Jesus, and the non-Christians left with a deeper understanding of who Jesus is.
- o Praise God for how He works in the lives of students like Simon, drawing them to Himself.

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