

Stannard Snippets

Changes, Opportunities, and Following God's Lead

The day has arrived! We are now officially MTW staff and concluded 11 years with Cru. As a part of our transition, you will notice a number of other changes. Our prayer letters are getting an overhaul. MTW partners with a service that allows us to send these out at a third of the cost. You will notice that our letters are in a different format. It may take a few tries for us to settle into a permanent template.

God has blessed us by expanding our team of ministry partners. This is a huge blessing that we are incredibly grateful for! With that, we want to be sure to share about additional ways to follow what God is doing in and through us. First, we send out a weekly email with three prayer requests and three updates. If you aren't receiving those, just send us an email and we would be happy to add you (lukeys87@gmail.com or mstannard8@gmail.com). Second, we post a short video update toward the end of each month. You can find that on our website (stannard.home.blog) along with all our previous prayer letters.

Along with some slight tweaks to our communication, we have been walking through major changes in other areas. Our monthly support team is nearing completion and we are at 93% of our target goal. This is a HUGE blessing since we were not able to follow any of the conventional wisdom in raising support - meeting face to face, not doing things from a distance, meeting new people, visiting churches, etc. All of this is a testimony to God's grace and your generosity! Thank you for being the means that God is using to provide for our needs with MTW.

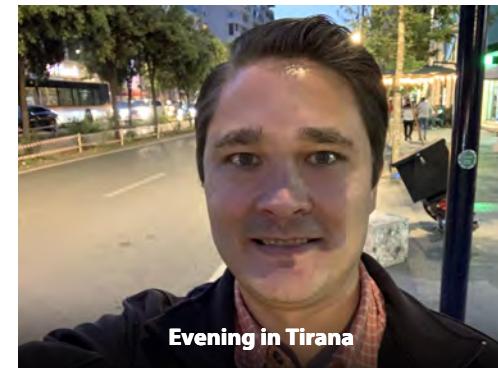
Another big transition is our upcoming move. This month we are seeking to find housing in Munich. Lord willing, we will be set to make the physical transition within the upcoming few weeks. There are a million steps between the two and we are trusting God to pave the way for every one of them. A big praise is that God provided a buyer for our house in Hungary without us even needing to put it on the market. God's provision is abundantly present in our lives!

"Without you all coming into our lives, I wouldn't have become nearly as involved in my church. I wouldn't have sought opportunities to serve and I likely wouldn't where I am today spiritually." Eszti shared this thought at our final meeting with our student leaders. We enjoyed a very blessed time of fellowship and remembering all that God has done over the past 8 years. Each student shared stories of how God has worked in their lives. We were able, in turn, to share how God used them to teach us many valuable lessons. You had a tremendous role to play in each life and were our partner in every story!

"I already miss our discipleship times each week. I learned so much about life, God, and growth from you. I need someone like this in my life. How do I go about finding another discipler? What characteristics should I be searching for?" Bence recently wrote this message. He is especially struggling as he has discovered that he is not in alignment theologically with those in his church.

Thankfully, God has brought resources into Bence's life, like John Piper podcasts. It has been a tremendous blessing to disciple Bence for the past 8 years and we pray that God continues to provide opportunities for our paths to cross.

Discipleship Described: "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1





Mission to the World
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Equipping today's students to lead
tomorrow's churches



Less than 0.5% and almost none

This past month, a chance arose to teach at the Albania Martin Bucer study center (MBS Albania). Over three days there were opportunities to hear stories and get a better picture of what the needs are as well as what God is doing there. During the next few months, we hope to share as much of this as possible!

One of the first people I, Luke, met was Viron. Viron is a father to a young son, works to help recruit new students for MBS Albania, is pursing his master's degree from MBS Albania, and works with Evangelism Explosion in Tirana. As with most Albanian families, both Viron and his wife work full time to attempt to make ends meet. Viron shared with me that less than half a percent of all Albanians would be considered evangelical Christians. In fact, the largest religious group in Albania is Islam. Behind this is a group which blends beliefs from both Islam and Christianity. In addition to these two groups are the Greek orthodox church and the Roman Catholic church. Albania is a mixed bag to say the least.

Erion, the director of MBS Albania invited me to lunch during my first day of teaching. He shared that almost no Albanian pastors have had the opportunity to receive seminary training. It was this fact and the realization that Christianity often stagnates the more loosely the church adheres to doctrine that compelled Erion to search for a way to bring theological teaching to pastors. This proved to be a challenge. The cost associated with seminary, the lack of numbers, and the challenges of finding faculty have meant that most seminary launches fizzled out within a few years. It is here that MBS is perfectly suited to minister with their emphasis on low fees, a faculty that travels between study centers, and a passion to equip students regardless of the number. Erion shared that MBS Albania has managed to keep the costs at 50 euro a month, an incredible bargain considering that seminary students typically pay upwards of \$400 per credit hour. Even so, Erion shared that several of the students need to be subsidized to help them afford the opportunity.

We are grateful to partner with you reaching MBS Albania! Luke and Michelle

German and Prayer Requests

Learn German with us! The word for Hungary is Ungarn which is pronounced: ooh-n-garn

Prayer Requests:

- Finding a house to rent
- Moving from BP to Munich
- Albania study center
- Learning a new culture
- 100% support

Praises:

- House sale
- Support raising process
- Opportunity in Albania
- 11 Years in Hungary
- Final weeks with students

Thank you for your incredible partnership in the Gospel!