

Stannard Snippets

Willkommen in Deutschland!

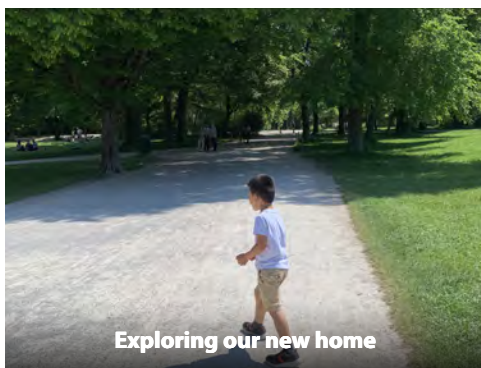
What a whirlwind of a month it was! After our many prayers, trips, and preparations, we are now greeting you from our new home in Germany! Last month we shared about the challenges of finding a home and this month we are thankful to be more or less settled into our new place. We have a few loose ends to tie up - most notably the kitchen which is currently just walls, a ceiling, and a floor. One German explained to us that years ago the type of car one drove was a statement regarding that person and their personality. That has since shifted to the kitchen. As a result, most homes are rented without a kitchen and the kitchen is considered to be the full property of the tenant not the owner. We quickly decided that our personality might best be described as cost efficient and functional. Thankfully, God is using your gracious generosity to provide for this essential need!

Our physical transition went relatively smoothly. We were able to find a Hungarian moving company that submitted a bid that was almost half of what the larger international companies were asking. The low price came with high professionalism and nothing was broken or damaged in the move. July ended up being a month of packing and unpacking. We spent the first few weeks frantically packing boxes and protecting our furniture and the final few weeks unpacking and organizing everything in its new home. Needless to say, this has left us trying to catch our breath!

One of the first things we learned about our new culture is that things are scheduled well in advance and do not take place spontaneously. There is an particular order things must take place in and this can compound the time of completion. For instance, we quickly discovered that getting internet set up can take 3 weeks from the point of signing a contract. However, one cannot sign a contract without having a German bank account which is the only acceptable means of payment. A German bank account requires proof of residence and so it is contingent upon having a rental contract and can only occur after the rental period has begun. This meant that one of our first order of business after moving in was to open a German bank account and then apply for an internet contract. And nearly a month later, we finally have internet at home (hence the delay in getting this letter out!). While it is nice to have a technological break, it did make it a challenge when so much of what we needed to do to settle in required the internet. We discovered that the kitchen purchase and installation works in a similar fashion. By God's grace, we found an affordable way to get cabinets, counters, and appliances. However, the cabinets and counters will only be ready for installation at the end of October. Until then our makeshift storage is our baskets lining the walls.

Many of you have asked about the adoption progress. Sadly, we don't have any new news at this time. The current thought is that travel will likely not reopen until the winter time and might not occur until after the Chinese New Year. While we desperately want to reunite our whole family, we also see how God's timing is allowing us to get somewhat established before bringing our son home. Prayerfully this will aid his and our adjustment to this next transition.

We invite you to pray with us for the adoption process to proceed as quickly as possible and for delays to stop happening. We also ask for your prayers as we work to finalize our house sale in Hungary, apply for residence permits in Germany, begin schooling for Elijah, and jump into language learning. Thank you for drawing alongside us in all of this!



Exploring our new home



Packing up one house



Our new kitchen!



Mission to the World PCA, Inc.
1600 North Brown Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Luke and Michelle Stannard
Munich, Germany

Equipping today's students to lead
tomorrow's churches for the glory
of God!



God's Timing

Among the many stories shared and things learned from teaching in Albania in May, was the Klodi's testimony (above picture, bottom left). Klodi pastors a church in northern Albania. Like most pastors in Albania, he could neither afford theological training nor did he have access to it. This is one of the main challenges that Martin Bucer Seminary seeks to meet. The Albania study center is able to offer a master's degree of theology while only charging about \$60 a month.

Klodi began his studies a little over a year ago. Because of his location, this means that twice a month, he commits to driving an hour and a half to attend the intensive teaching days. In between, he is involved in assignments, online instruction in Hebrew and Greek, and his normal ministry. When I was introduced to Klodi, he told me that he was especially looking forward to these two teaching days. I had been asked to teach on the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of the Image of God in us. Both are extremely relevant to Albanian pastors because both of them are explicitly refuted by the dominant religion in Albania - Islam.

Klodi shared with me that just the past Sunday a new couple showed up at his church. As he was standing at the door to greet people after the service, this new couple approached him and began to ask questions regarding the Trinity. Klodi had not been preaching on the Trinity, but this is often a major stumbling block for those who have a Muslim background. Klodi suggested finding a time to meet together in the coming weeks. In part, this was because the few minutes afforded in greeting people after the worship is not nearly enough time to unpack this doctrine. But, Klodi confessed, the other reason was that he wasn't really sure how to best respond. He knew the doctrine and believed in it, but he didn't really understand it and certainly didn't feel comfortable teaching or discussing it. As Klodi left the church that day, he remembered that in a few days he would be attending the monthly MBS seminar and that the announced topic was none other than the doctrine of the Trinity. God provided an answer at the perfect time!

German and Prayer Requests

The word for welcome is Willkommen which is pronounced: will-cOme-in

Prayer Requests:

- Adoption progress
- 100% support (currently 98%)
- House closing, language
- Settling in, residence permits

Praises:

- Transition to Germany!
- No damage to our things!
- God's provision and grace!
- Upcoming ministry chances!

Don't forget to check the latest vlog - Stannard Snapshots on our website (first page footer)

Thanks for partnering with us!