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**Jason, Emily & Savannah Atkins**

*Three Crazy Days From Michigan to Africa* by Emily

We are back in Guinea-Bissau! The three day trip started out a bit rough with a very active toddler who did not sleep at all on the overnight flight, but improved greatly when said exhausted toddler napped most of the next day in her stroller while we waited in several different lines in Dakar and then finally boarded the boat in the afternoon. The overnight ferry was amazing, and after a good night's sleep, Savannah was an angel during the four hours we sat in a station wagon in the rain at a police station while the public transit car we were crossing the border in got temporarily impounded by the police the next afternoon. When our car and driver were finally released from police custody, we hit the road rolling into the Youth Center late that night with all of our bags and were greeted by our very happy dog, Sydney.



*Mama and Savannah passed out in a restaurant in Dakar waiting to get on the boat*



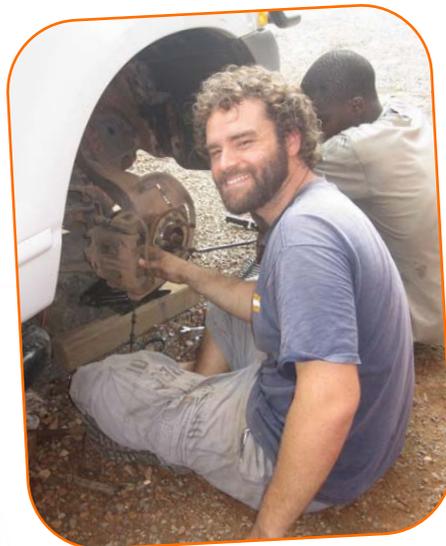
*Yum! We always look forward to the food on South African airways flights*

Since we left shortly after the coup in April we didn't really know what to expect politically when we arrived. For the most part things have seemed pretty calm; however, last week there was an attack on the military base where most of the weapons are stored (a few miles from our house), but, after two hours, the soldiers were able to fight off the attackers. We're praying for God to work in the hearts of the leaders of this nation and bring lasting peace.

*Back Online* by Jason

We've worked hard to train our fellow workers at the youth center, and they've learned how to do a lot of things – but there are still some things that require us to be here. While we were away there were some significant problems with computers, internet equipment, the computer network, shop tools, etc. We got back and got our house organized a bit, then set to work fixing stuff that broke over the past four months.

Lots of different things had transpired damaging equipment while we were away, including an unusually heavy rain season, unstable generator power, and inattention. One piece of network equipment didn't have signal, and I couldn't figure out why until I climbed the pole it's mounted on and found a welder, who wasn't paying attention, had welded right through its network cable. The rain had fried some other equipment, and the generator finished off several of the computers that the students use in the labs. We've been piecing some things back together and getting replacements ordered for others.



*Fixing the car*

*Continued on page 2*

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Our car was having scary brake trouble when we evacuated, so we knew we'd need to deal with that on our return. We brought 45 pounds of parts in our luggage to fix our car. One more part had seized up, which a short term team was able to bring last week, thankfully! We think we have the car almost back in working order. Not having parts available locally is a big struggle!

Thanks for your support that makes it possible for us to be here and help keep everything going.

*The Solar Power System Turns 10* by Jason

The solar system this month will generate its 10,000th kilowatt/hour! It started generating its first power 11 months ago, and was working more or less while we were in the U.S., so that's quite an achievement. The system has required some oversight, but generally has been a very reliable way to power the youth center using the bright African sun. We pray it will continue to be a big blessing to the youth center into the future.

We were also able to finally get a connection installed to the city power grid this month. Although the grid is incredibly undependable, we're hoping that when it has power it will be one more step to help alleviate the difficulty we've had with our aging generators, after the sun is down.

*Two!* by Emily

Savannah turned two this month and between her two eggs, two juice boxes, two presents, and the two other two-year-olds who spent the day with her, she had a fantastic time. I cut out little number 2s and hung them all over the house the night before, and my detail-loving little girl didn't miss a single one. She ran around the room kissing them all when she got up. She's talking up a storm in English (though we haven't reached the "why" phase yet). She's picked up several Creole words and expressions which she uses to everyone's delight!

She's never happier than when she's helping and you can almost always find her cozied up to one of us with her hands in whatever we're doing.

We potty trained her a few weeks ago and she loves to proudly show off her princess undies 😊 She's officially a big kid now 😊

*Halfway through cooking my Naan I felt I was missing quite a bit of dough. That's when I discovered that my little helper had shoved several handfuls into my hollow rolling pin*



*Helping her Daddy scrub the paint off of his shoes*



*Peeling eggs with Mama to make egg salad for dinner*

When I look back over the last two years of her life I marvel at how flexible she is, how healthy she's been, and what a blessing God gave to our family. I can never say it enough – thank you for all of your prayers for our precious little girl!

*Jason + Emily*

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