



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

Aug / Sep 2024

What a great summer traveling, speaking, and catching up!

Atkins Family Fun *by Emily*

In July and August we had lots of adventures with Jason's side of the family. We went camping at Hocking Hills State Park in Ohio where we did quite a bit of hiking, even more swimming, and enjoyed several rounds of one of our kids' favorite American delicacies: s'mores.



In Michigan we played board games, went blueberry picking, swatted many pickleballs, and fired off an exciting round of model rockets. We even got to spend time with Jason's grandparents and several other members of his extended family.



Family fun in the midwestern summer is hard to beat!

On The Road Again *by Emily*

Ever since we arrived in the U.S. in mid-June, we have not stopped moving. We did have three weeks in a row in one place in August (Jason's parents' house in Michigan), but near the end of the month we packed our suitcases once again and hit the road. First, we spent time with my grandma and extended family in North Carolina. Then a week with friends at the beach in South Carolina. After that, we headed to Mississippi for several days with my sister and her family, and then to Little Rock where we have a few weeks with my dad.



Emily and Grandma spent the day knitting and chatting.

When we leave Arkansas, we will be spending some time in Tulsa and Illinois before heading back to Michigan. All told, it will be 5 weeks on the road, and then we will have a short week in Michigan before we fly out to California in October. Whew, my head is spinning just talking about it, haha.

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In the middle of all of our travels I also started the school year with the kids when we got to my dad's house: 8th grade, 6th grade, and 3rd grade, can you believe it?

We had a fabulous time with friends at the beach (including some putt-putt)!



Exciting Finds *by Jason*

This trip to the U.S. has felt unusually busy! Between trying to see everyone we've been missing for the last couple of years, getting some work done, keeping my guys supplied with the information they need to continue working on the new shop back in Canchungo, and buying/transporting/sorting things to send over in the container, it's been a lot.

There have been some difficult moments and some exciting ones, and some exciting things that have also been difficult!

I have been able to find some good deals on regular shop consumables like grinding wheels and saw blades but have also gotten a few exciting finds that will significantly expand our abilities not only to build things but also to train our guys on new skills. You never know what you're getting at an auction even when things are listed as being in working order, so I'm not "counting my chickens" until I'm able to test it out, but one of the things I'm most excited about so far is our first welding robot! (It included a welding table and nice welder that were worth the price I paid even if the robot doesn't work, so it seemed like a safe bet.) I'm excited to be able to test it out when we're back in Michigan. If it does work, once I study its 998-page manual, it will give us the ability to automate perfect welds on some of the things we make over and over and over again, like the grade school desks we supply to schools. Once I've learned it, the robot will join machining as another advanced metalworking skill we're able to offer training on.



Meet the newest member of the New Creations Workshop team! This welding robot has a lot of potential for our work!



We've been putting some serious miles on the road between equipment/supplies gathering and all of our travel!



My brother, Eli, came over to help me disconnect and prep a pair of vertical machining centers for transport after I bought them for little more than the cost of moving them. Various machines are still jockeying for space in the container we'll send, but I hope in the end that we'll have room for this one!



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