



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

Oct / Nov 2024

It was a busy fall traveling
and packing the shipping
container!

Preaching In English *by Emily*

There is nothing I like better than sharing the messages that the Spirit lays on my heart to build the church, and each trip back to the U.S., the Lord opens more doors for me to speak. This fall I had the opportunity to preach in congregations across several different states, at different MomCo groups, and even at a Christmas banquet that happened just before we left. It was such a joy to be able to talk about how the Holy Spirit changes us, what Jesus's healing looks like in our daily lives, the limits of God's love for His children (spoiler alert, there are none), and even what God can teach us in times to spiritual dryness.



It was especially fun to be able to preach in English, and now that we are back in Guinea-Bissau, I'm looking forward to writing sermons and preaching in Portuguese Creole again.



Big Box of Awesomeness *by Jason*

The last several months have been a whirlwind of activity. Sitting in my hammock in Canchungo in late December looking back over photos, I'm amazed we made it. Amidst traveling to speak, reconnecting with friends and family, and getting ready to fly back, we finished choosing and collecting supplies and equipment to send back in our shipping container, and then loaded and sent it. We could never have accomplished it all without God sustaining us and the Herculean efforts and support of so many friends and family helping us.

It was hard work and there is still a lot of effort ahead of us unloading heavy equipment when the container arrives. However, as I think about all of the useful stuff that's coming for us and a few partner ministries, it starts to feel more worth it. We're thankful no one was seriously hurt during any of it, especially moving heavy machines around. The full recounting of the months of exhausted-to-your-bones work we did wouldn't be interesting to most, so let me give you a few highlights.



In addition to the ironworker machine I mentioned a few months ago, we were able to load several key pieces of equipment for our shop and our partners. The drinking water filter factory purchased a brand new machine called a pug mill which will give the factory the ability to process its own clay and produce filters more quickly, using the electricity from the solar power system we're installing at their site. The WAVS vocational (cont'd)



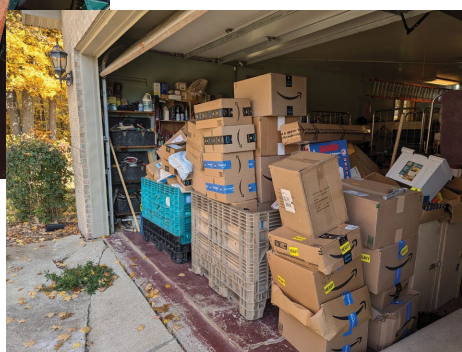
My dad running my late Grandpa Huntoon's tractor was a huge help—seen here loading WAVS' new-to-them DoALL bandsaw. The loading that had to happen in the snow was a little more exciting and a little less fun, though!

Big Box of Awesomeness (cont'd) *by Jason*

(cont'd) school sent a bunch of welding and carpentry equipment, and I was able to track down a nice used wood/metal vertical bandsaw for them, along with a bigger wood planer for my shop that will let my current one go to them. We were also excited to receive a donated box/pan brake for bending sheet metal from a machinery dealer in Wisconsin, which my dad graciously offered to go pick up in the snow! The machine needs a little TLC, but it will be a fun project to rehab it and clean it back up. It will feel right at home in my shop full of old, tough, American-made equipment, mostly from the 60's and 70's. We also shipped a computer-controlled metal lathe that was donated several years ago and will be a huge complement to our machine shop. I was able to collect a few new tools for our growing carpentry shop, including an old but monstrous 5hp Delta 16" radial arm saw that will be big enough to finally let us cross-cut the 16" boards that are customary over here, and it was only \$6 at an auction!



Receiving/sorting/repacking/crating incoming supplies took over much of my parents' 3-car garage, wood shop, and barn.



In the middle of the container process, I always think that we should never do it again. It's a ton of work. But, as I imagine all of that good stuff, along with construction supplies like electrical, plumbing, and a drop ceiling for the machine shop arriving, I'm excited about what a huge boost all of it will be once we get it all unloaded and unpacked on this end. Fortunately, we have two months to get ready before it'll arrive in late February.

The process is often overwhelming, but when we're out of our depth we can more fully appreciate the help we're being given. Though we're encouraged in different ways by the support and help of everyone who comes alongside our ministry, we need to say a special thanks to my parents for both help and letting us take over barn and garage space during packing, and PTL Engineering for the irreplaceable assistance with the logistics of actually loading the container, as well as several volunteers from Lapeer Community Church.

A Few of the Kids' US Highlights *by Emily*

When I asked the kids their overall impressions of our time in America, Nathaniel told me to just put a smiley face emoji. A few of their highlights were getting baptized in July, knife throwing at Jason's aunt's house in August, the visit to City Museum in St. Louis in September, the Simpson Park Camp youth retreat in October, fun family activities in November in Michigan and in Arkansas, and playing in the snow in Michigan in December. They also said that all of the hours they spent in the car were not bad at all because of all of the great audiobooks we listened to.



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