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Jason & Emily Atkins

The Rains Came Down and The Floods Came Up, but the House Upon the Rock Stood Firm! *by Jason*

The building project here at the center is coming along and looking better all the time! The official beginning of the rainy season here is May 15. It hadn't rained for months before that day. Despite several hard days leading up to it, on the 15th, we didn't have our roof complete, and right on schedule the rain poured that night! Fortunately the building was almost completely covered in plaster and didn't sustain any serious damage.

We're now moving on to finish up plaster and paint, make doors and windows, and get electrical in. The masons are also still working on building stairs up the back side of the building to the second story; we thought the ladder we've been climbing wasn't a good permanent solution. ☺ Soon we'll be done making messes in the shop and finally able to organize everything properly and enjoy getting some work done in the next month before we come home!

Stateside *by Emily*

My five weeks in the States were a bit of whirlwind with lots of traveling, lots of family, and of course, lots of cheese munching. ☺ My sister's wedding was beautiful and my growing tummy even fit into the bridesmaid dress!

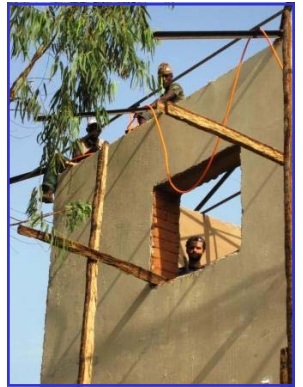
I had my second doctor's appointment in May and **I'm happy to announce that we're having a baby girl.** She and I are both healthy and doing great, and the doctor told me that he had no reservations about me heading back to Africa and seeing him again in two months! Thank you so much for your prayers for me and our little girl. We can see God's hand on this pregnancy in so many ways and we've been so blessed by your prayers for our health and safety.

The trip back was a little hectic! I was accidentally un-booked from a flight and then re-booked without too much fuss. I thought to myself, well if that's the only little snafu for the trip, I'm doing pretty good! Unfortunately, it was not! My first flight ended up being delayed shortening my layover in Washington DC from two hours to about thirty minutes. Since I had to change two concourses and be at the flight at least 40 minutes in advance to board, it didn't look like I was going to make it. The only problem was that all of the flights to Dakar from the States were booked for almost the next week. I decided to go ahead and fly to Washington DC and then try as hard as I could to make that plane. If that didn't work they would fly me standby to Paris and then I would spend a day there alone before flying down to Dakar, Senegal.

When I landed in DC with 28 minutes until my next flight took off, I *ran!* As a pregnant woman running through a crowded airport I expected to get some looks, but I didn't expect people to call out to me to slow down! I ended up making it to my gate five minutes before take off, totally out of breath. I think the gate attendants felt bad for the panting pregnant woman before their eyes, because they called the captain who was about to taxi away from the gate and held the plane long enough to check me in, unlock the doors, and get me on board!

I made it to Senegal safe and sound and though my luggage did not make that plane, it did make the plane the next morning and I was able to get it before I got on the overnight boat to the south of Senegal. Jason met me as I got off of the boat the next morning and I have never been happier to see him in my life!

I had about 150 pounds of luggage with me and pretty much all of it was equipment for the youth center (and a jar of sweet pickle relish for Jason's birthday). We've already been able to put a lot of it to use and it's been such a blessing! Thank you for praying for my trip and my bags ☺



Jason and the workers busy putting the roof on the second story of the new machine shop at the youth center



21 weeks-more than half-way! Baby girl is growing like a weed and I am too!

We Want to See You!!!
We are going to be coming back to the US at the end of July! We'll be home until early 2011, so if you would like us to speak at your church or small group let us know!

For the ministry of:

Jason & Emily Atkins

Account: 30115

Serving with Youth for Christ / Guinea-Bissau, Africa

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