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## Jason, Emily & Savannah Atkins

### Manly Feats of Strength *by Emily*

This past month Jason got a ton done in the shop. Several large tools that came over in the container were fixed up, hooked up, and are now working - including the 45-year-old air compressor and the 30-year-old welder (both of which looked like rusty hunks of junk when we bought them for a fraction of the price they were new). As each machine gets patched up and online, all of Jason's other shop work gets easier and easier. He was able to get lots of little projects completed this month with the help of two guys from the States who were here for three weeks, including modifying a hitch receiver so that we can haul the block making machine with our car.

Usually Jason works by himself when he's building things, so he enjoyed having Jonathan and Thomas with him in the shop. Jonathan and his family were here in Guinea-Bissau with us for about two years working with some local churches, and they moved back to the States last July. Jonathan was back to lead a discipleship conference, do some preaching and evangelism with the pastors he was working with before, and help Jason with several projects. Thomas was here with us as a young single guy the first time we came. He got married six months ago and he's headed to seminary in the fall. He and his wife, Julie, are interested in foreign missions, so they came out to get a feel for what it would be like living in West Africa and to lend a hand in whatever ways we needed.

One of the main projects the guys worked on in the shop was building storm shutters for the windows of the houses of our teammates, Wade and Katie, in Mansoa. When it rains, the wind blows with amazing force, and it was impossible to keep the water from getting in with the plastic mats they were using as window coverings. Jason designed a shutter/sunshade, got the steel, and welded it together. Then Wade took the shutters out to Mansoa and painted and installed them. They look great and Wade and Katie's house will now be able to be dry in the wildest storm. ☺

While the guys were working in the shop, Jonathan also built loudspeakers for a church to use in their services and when preaching in villages or showing the Jesus film. They built a fan guard for the ancient air compressor and a guard for the top of the drill press so that no hands can get sucked into the belts. Lots of other little projects were checked off of Jason's list, like building a thingy to hold scrap steel, hanging up a chalkboard for designs and lists, and making plans for finishing the solar installation.

*continued...*



Jason and Jonathan painting on rust proof primer



Getting ready to bring the block maker back from the village of Mansoa. You can see the bright orange hitch receiver Jason welded and installed. Eventually it will get painted black



Thomas and Wade helping with the metal shutters for Wade's house in Mansoa



Rewiring the drill press before the new guard was put on top



Jason and Thomas hanging the chalkboard in the shop

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The cement work on the solar support structure has finally reached the point where Jason can start designing and making the security fence and solar panel mounts, and he's always excited to chop up and weld steel. Everyday when we see the sun rise we look forward to a few months from now when we will be able to use its energy to power the Youth Center without the noise, smoke, and cost of the big diesel generator!

### **Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice** *by Emily*

While the guys were out in the shop Julie and I were not sitting around eating bon bons ☺ (Though Jonathan did bring us a few Snickers bars). I've got a long list of little things that need to be improved in our English curriculum and Julie was a huge help getting stuff checked off of that list. She is a teacher in the US and before that she taught English for two years in Belize. We had several planning sessions and then she wrote lots of different stories, poems, and letters using the vocabulary for our level four materials.

While she was here Julie also gave me a few sewing lessons. I got a sewing machine for Christmas several years ago and I've used it to make curtains and several other simple things, but I've been wanting to make clothing. I have a pattern for a simple skirt so we made it together in the evening when the guys were watching a movie.

Adding three extra hungry adults for three weeks meant that most of the rest of my free time was spent cooking ☺ We had a wonderful, productive, encouraging time and if any of the rest of you would like to make a trip out here you're welcome anytime!!!



*Planning out the changes to the level 4 English curriculum*



*Julie showing me how to place the pattern pieces correctly on the fabric*



*When you buy raw honey fresh from the bee hive you have to filter out all of the bee parts and whole bees that come in it*

### **Blessed by Your Prayers** *by Emily*

Thank you so much for all of your prayers for us! In the middle of the rainy season sickness abounds, but we've been so healthy this year. Savannah is growing like a weed and she's doing new things everyday. She loves to eat and she's starting to chatter up a storm.

For those of you who get our prayer updates, you probably remember the prayer request we had about two months ago for Kristin (the daughter of missionary friends of ours who got seriously ill and had to be medevaced to Senegal and then to the Canary Islands with her mother while her father and twin ten-month-old brother had to stay here until they all met in Norway a week later). She recovered wonderfully and they came back from Norway last weekend. They spent a few days with us and then headed back out to the village where they live. The twins are one year old now and Savannah had a great time watching them crawl and toddle around. I think she's thinking about becoming mobile herself soon.



*After two months in Norway, Kristin received a clean bill of health and Savannah welcomed her (and her family) back to Guinea- Bissau last week*



*Come on in, the water's fine ☺*



*Savannah LOVES playing with her Daddy, even when he's incredibly dirty from working all day in the shop*

### **Getting Closer** *by Emily*

Ever since we wrote the article in our March newsletter about needing more monthly support we have been overwhelmed by your response! This month three new families joined our monthly support team. Every month we get closer to having 100% of the money we need coming in. If you're interested in giving a special gift or joining our monthly support team, you can send a check with the form on the bottom of this letter or you can click on the link of the bottom of our homepage: [www.JasonandEmilyAtkins.com](http://www.JasonandEmilyAtkins.com).

*Jason + Emily*