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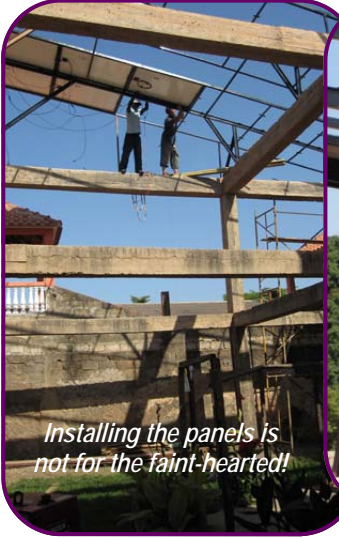
## Jason, Emily & Savannah Atkins

### Pumping Out Power by Emily

Last time you heard from us we were just getting ready to install the first solar panel. We've been busy since then! After more than a year of designing, purchasing, sending, unpacking, building and finally installing, the solar power system at the youth center, it is nearly complete! All 60 panels are in place, pumping out energy from the bright African sun, and the whole Youth Center is running on solar power from 8:30 am to around 4:00 pm each day. Jason has been doing a good amount of training so that people here at the youth center know how to use and maintain the system that should provide energy for the next 25 years! Next month we'll include our first monthly report about real-world generator fuel savings from January!



*60 solar panels, installed and pumping power! Praise the Lord!!!*



*Installing the panels is not for the faint-hearted!*



*Jason and Nilton hooking up wires.*



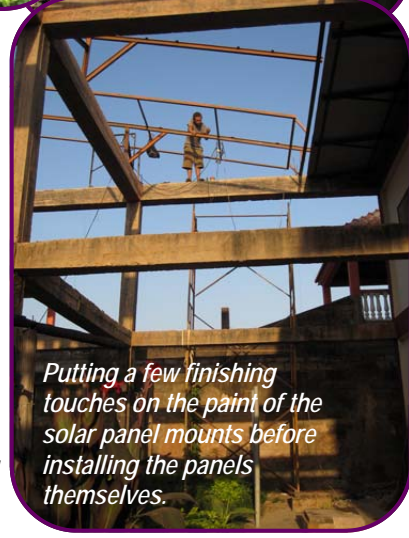
*The only way to get the panels up to their new home is to tie straps to them and pull. This is a bit nerve-wracking due to the costliness and delicacy of the panels!!!*



*Going up!*



*Using the panel-sized frame to make sure that all of the holes are drilled in the right places.*



*Putting a few finishing touches on the paint of the solar panel mounts before installing the panels themselves.*

### Recycling by Emily

One of the most frustrating things about living and working in Guinea-Bissau is not being able to find the tools and materials that you need to get things done. Jason is always searching for the right kind of metal, bearings, gears, wheels, screws in the right sizes, nuts and bolts that actually fit – seriously he would pay a lot of money to be able to walk into an American home improvement store most days! Sometimes those things are available, but you have to spend three days wandering around the maze in the giant open air market to find them in a stack behind a pile next to something completely different. Sometimes you need a pair and you find one quickly and months go by before you find another one. Because of this you have two choices – get nothing done and slowly lose your mind, or get creative. We've chosen option two.

*Continued...*

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Jason's been able to deal with this partially by sending lots of things over in containers and making friends with different vendors in the market. But most of the time he has to think outside the box. Just this last week he cut up a second-hand car part because he needed round steel bar that isn't available here. You can call it recycling, up-cycling, or re-purposing, but it's basically just taking something old and making something new. Lots of people do it to save the environment; we do it to save our sanity! ☺

Jason's got a million ideas for things that the shop can make and sell to help support itself, and his latest idea was to recycle an old oil drum to make a grill. It took about a day and it worked great! We've been grilling up a storm and he's got several people interested in having one of their own. Now that he's got the design worked out, Jason's on the look out for a guy he can train to make them.



*Lighting the first fire in the new grill*

For me the list is a little different. I find myself searching for little things that make a house feel like home – like a rug for our floor or curtains for our windows – and I'm not alone. Many Guinean women have told me that they would love to know how to make things for their houses. Over the past month I've been working on several recycling projects involving old sheets or old t-shirts that I bought for next-to-nothing at the local used clothes market. I wanted to work out the kinks so that I could train several other women how to make things like this as well.



*The old sheets I bought to make a new rug.*



*A potholder I crocheted out of an old-t-shirt*



*The new rug, crocheted and gracing the floor in front of our bed -yay!!*



*Old sheets ripped into strips.*

Last week one of my seamstress friends came over and she couldn't stop raving about our new rug and the potholders that I finished a few days before. She wants to learn and she wants me to teach her daughters as well. Her family is very poor and after I teach her I'm hoping that she'll be able to sell the things she makes to help buy food and pay for her kids' schooling.

## **Knocking Our Socks Off!** by Emily

As we look back at 2011 we see God's blessing and provision again and again and again! At the beginning of this year we were struggling financially and we weren't sure if we were going to be able to stay in Guinea-Bissau. We started praying and it has been amazing to see God touch the hearts of so many people to support our ministry! In the past two months especially, so many people have given special gifts and we are excited to have the opportunity to start the new year with the resources for some new projects.

As the solar installation draws to a close we've been making plans to get block construction underway again and we've been dreaming about new projects Jason would like to work on in the shop. We've got some different ideas of things that could be built and sold (like bunk beds and doors) to give jobs to people and provide another revenue stream for YFC Guinea-Bissau. Jason would also like to build some simple machines for rice-threshing and peanut-shelling to help farmers and the church so that they can send self-supporting national missionaries to plant churches all over the country.

As you can see, our dreams are big! The money that so many of you gave so generously will go a long way buying materials, paying workers, taking care of our family and making lots of our God sized dreams for Guinea-Bissau come true. ☺

In order to partner with us financially you can send a check in with the form at the bottom of the front page or you can give online at [www.yfc.net/give/atkinsjasonemily](http://www.yfc.net/give/atkinsjasonemily).

*Jason & Emily*

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*For the past five months all Savannah wants to do is walk, but she hasn't started walking on her own yet. Because of her extreme cuteness she ropes pretty much everyone into holding her hands and walking her around. Here she is with the National Director of YFC Guinea-Bissau, and one of her best buds, Pastor Ze Augusto.*



*Savannah loves to share her toys with new friends.*