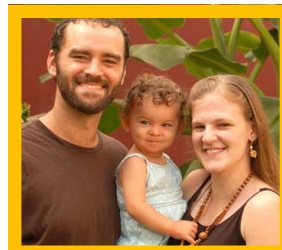


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Jason, Emily & Savannah Atkins

THE CARAVAN PACKS UP AGAIN by Jason

One of the hardest and best parts about living in two places is the anticipation and preparation getting ready to go from one to the other. When we're in the U.S., we look forward to getting back to a nice climate, fresh food, and our work. When we're in Bissau, we're always craving that tamale or cheese from an American restaurant, missing being away from our families, and tired out by the heat. It's a blessing to be at home in both places, but difficult to never be fully at home in either.

The month leading up to coming back this time was busy wrapping things up, full of excitement about getting back to the U.S., and full of thanks for being able to come back to a safe medical system to have the new baby. Emily spent weeks packing our apartment so it could be rented to others while we're away. We built a little fenced-in doghouse in the back yard so our dog, who lives on our porch, would have a dry place to lay her head while we were gone and others were living in our space.

We spent time training in different areas to help things go smoothly during our absence. We finished the last step of our bunk bed making project, building a rack to be able to paint three beds at a time. We did some work to facilitate the next step in the drinking water filter factory project, which hopefully will be moving forward with initial construction around October.

Thank you for the part your support has played in making all of this possible!



It's amazing I ever got our packing finished



The new (to us) lathe in action



Our dog Sydney's new house under construction

Continued...

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STATESIDE BREAKDOWN by Emily

In case you're wondering where we'll be over the next few months, here are the broad brush strokes.

- **APRIL** – all over the U.S. really - seeing the doctor in Michigan, a family wedding in Virginia, our only niece's first birthday in Mississippi, visiting family in Little Rock, Arkansas, a quick stop to see our supervisors in Illinois, and then finally back to Michigan.
- **MAY, JUNE, AND JULY** – we'll be sticking close to home in Michigan. "Baby Brother" is due June 20, so I won't be able to travel very far as that date approaches or for a little while after that. We are planning on being at Simpson Park Camp as much as possible in the end of July.
- **AUGUST** – Arkansas. Are we crazy or what! Praise the Lord for air conditioning ☺
- **SEPTEMBER** and the very beginning of October – probably back around the Michigan area, packing up and getting ready to head back to Bissau!

Even though the government of Guinea-Bissau is still in shambles a year after the coup that caused us to evacuate last summer, the church is still going strong. While we're in the U.S. we're looking forward to sharing with people and churches about all of the different projects and opportunities that we're excited about jumping back into in Bissau in October!

Saxon + Emily



Catching up on some cowgirl time with Grandpa



A four generation shopping trip – four first-born girls. Watch out Target, here we come!



Savannah has found a new love in life—swings! She can't get enough !



Cooking lessons with her Grams!



Cousin time on Addison's first birthday!



Learning about chalkboards with her Pops!



The whole Atkins family at Missy and Andres' wedding. What a good looking bunch!



Slam Dunk

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