

**Ministering in Guinea-Bissau**  
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## Jason & Emily Savannah, Nathaniel Atkins

### Hooray! by Jason

Last installment we told you about an exciting fundraising opportunity in the form of an anonymous matching donation that would contribute \$2 for every \$1 donated this summer, up to a total of \$30,000. We're happy to announce that with many of your help and a generous grant from Bayshore camp, God has provided! \$10,844 in special gifts have been given this summer, which will now be matched with \$20,000! We are very excited to have these funds available to buy new equipment, purchase land, and begin several great projects.

Please pray with us as we're seeking God's direction about exactly which tools to purchase, how best to expand the shop, and which projects God is leading us into next. We're excited to be able to use this money to get started on several new projects, including:

- Expanding the shop's equipment to include machine building and repair capabilities.
- Setting up a dedicated location for the block making machine to be able to make blocks to sell and generate extra project money when it isn't being used for church projects.
- Building the plant and some equipment for the drinking water filter factory in Safim.



*A tough old vertical band-saw Jason picked up for our shop in Bissau.*

I've continued to scour local (and less local) auctions for good machine tools to take back to Bissau and I've scored some incredible bargains! The saw pictured here was an eBay find that wasn't well listed so everyone else ignored it. I paid \$100 for it, and then a day and fuel to drive to Ohio to pick it up. The same model at another auction I attended went for \$1,030!

Please rejoice with us at God's provision and continue to pray that He will direct us as we're purchasing more equipment and then packing all of it into a shipping container in September. It's going to be a very busy six weeks once we get back to Michigan before we fly out on October 13! This time in the U.S. has been a big blessing!

### The Political Climate in Guinea-Bissau by Emily

It's been more than a year since the military takeover of the government that forced us to evacuate the country last April. The coup happened in the middle of presidential elections but Guinea-Bissau has not had new elections and is still under the rule of the leaders that the military put in place. After lots of creative stalling tactics, elections have been set for a few months from now on the country's Independence Day – November 24. After decades of corrupt leaders and military coups it's hard to know what to pray for, but we're hoping for a government led by people of integrity, an end to the drug trade, and peace for the people of Guinea-Bissau. Nothing is impossible with God, right?

### Changing the world is not just a job for movie stars! by Emily

One of the highlights of July was talking to the first through sixth graders at Simpson Park Camp about the things that missionaries do and how they can pray for missionaries around the world. When we finished talking they had some pretty great questions. One girl asked if the best way to be a missionary was to get famous first, like a movie star, and then choose a cause to get involved in.

Several kids asked questions about daily life in Africa, including one little boy who asked if we ever have to defend our pet gazelle from jaguar attacks ☺.



*Speaking to the kids in Hastings' House at Simpson Park Camp.*

*Continued...*

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(In case you're wondering, no we don't, ha-ha.) It always fun to see kids get excited about being part of what God's doing around them and around the world!

A Tiny New Missionary by Emily

After a long and suspenseful wait we are pleased to announce that another new missionary has joined our team! On June 26 our brand new son Nathaniel finally made his appearance! As Savannah likes to say he's, "packing on his pounds" and we're all enjoying getting to know him.

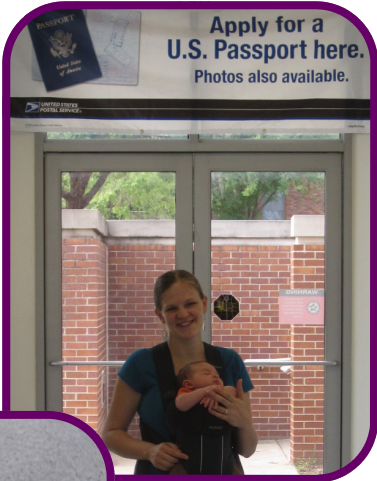
Over the past seven years in Guinea-Bissau we've seen God's healing many times in our own lives and in the lives of our friends. Sometimes it's been dramatic and sometimes it's been gradual, sometimes we've prayed once and sometimes we've prayed over and over, but one thing we know for sure is that God has the power to heal our physical bodies. We named our new little guy Nathaniel Jason Atkins because Nathaniel means "God has given" and Jason means "healer", and we love that Jesus was given to earth to bring spiritual, emotional, and physical healing. We wanted to remember that blessing as a family and to give God the glory for His healing power in and around us.

Thank you for your prayers for the health and healing of our family over these past seven years. We have been humbled and amazed at all of the ways that God has kept us healthy and answered specific prayers with miraculous healing in big ways and small ones.

We've also had the opportunity to speak at several new churches about the things that have been happening in Guinea-Bissau and the projects we'd like to continue and start when we head back in October. As the weeks go by we're really looking forward to jumping back in to life and work back in Africa.

Jason + Emily

At the post office applying for Nathaniel's very first passport.



Our precious boy with his dinos.

Jason standing by some California Redwood trees with our friend Richard on his trip to California. While Jase was out there they met about the water filer factory Richard is helping to build in Guinea-Bissau and Jase spoke at their church.



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