

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau
www.jasonandemilyatkins.com
jasonpatkins@gmail.com
emilymarieatkins@gmail.com



Jason & Emily Savannah, Nathaniel Atkins

The Atkins Family of Four is headed back to Guinea-Bissau, October 13!

Packing a 40-foot shipping container is no small endeavor! by Emily

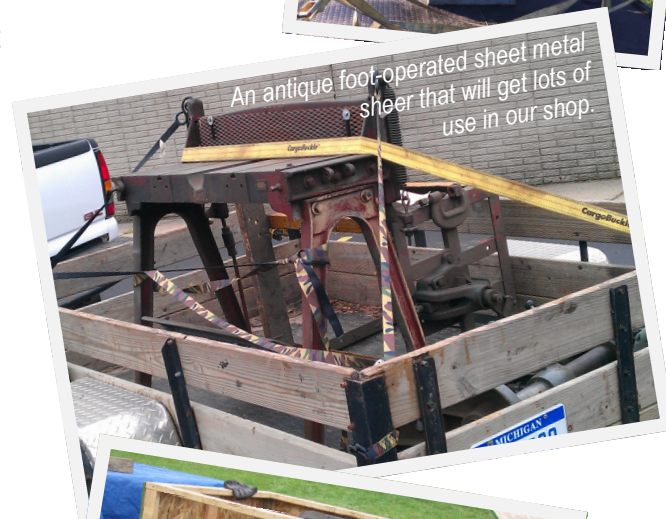
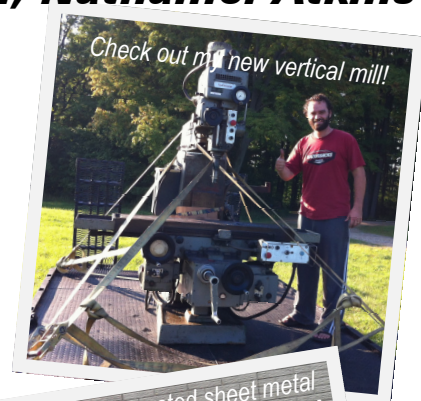
A milling machine and giant photocopiers, band saw blades and tuna fish, welding wire and kids clothes, a sewing machine and yards of elastic, shampoo and drill bits, church sound systems and all of the supplies to start a friend's welding school - these are just a few of the things that we've been boxing up to send to Bissau in a 40-foot shipping container.

It's always amazing how much work goes into packing one of these things and it's equally amazing how much the supplies we send help our ministry, our family, and the work of so many other people in Guinea-Bissau. Sometimes in the middle of packing and packing and even more packing it's a bit overwhelming, but so many friends and family members have been stopping by at just the right times, manning tape guns, reading to the kids, building crates, hauling boxes, and generally being awesome and encouraging. ☺

Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and generous financial support of this project!



Jason's Uncle Ted disassembling a mortar mixer we're sending over for the water filter factory in Bissau.



Continued...

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A tough drill press for our friend Chris's welding school.



It won't fit in the crate unless they take the motor off!



Using all of the space efficiently requires quite a bit of planning. Jason's Grandpa is helping him fill the rest of the crate after they loaded three giant photocopiers. Can you believe that Jason got them at an auction for less than \$15 each!



What a handsome little man!

Going "Home" by Emily

The months leading up to Nathaniel's birth seemed like they might never end, but the few months since he joined our family have flown by! It's hard to believe that we're packing our suitcases and getting ready to head back to Bissau in a few short weeks; but as Michigan gets colder and colder we're looking forward to the tropical heat of our west African home. ☺

It's always such a blessing for us to have the opportunity to sit down face to face with our family and friends when we come back home to the US. So many people have encouraged us, challenged us, and just plain loved us while we've here.

Whenever we come back to the US we always take time to learn new things and expand skills that we use in Guinea-Bissau. You'd be amazed at all of things that Jason has learned about welding and working with metal from YouTube, machinist forums, and talking with experienced friends. In between packing boxes, chasing Savannah, and feeding Nathaniel, I've been honing my sewing skills and I've got a good supply of fabric destined for Bissau.

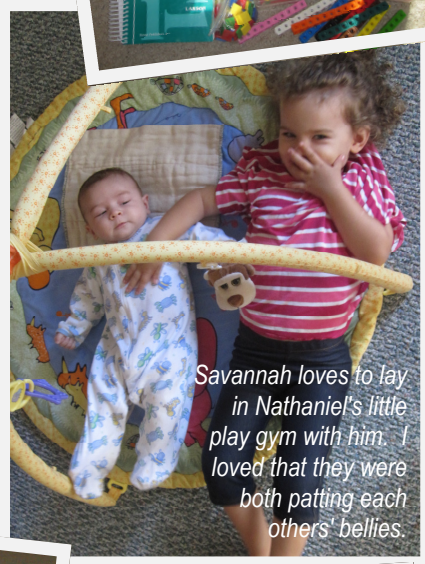
It's been fun for Savannah to have a chance to watch a little PBS most days learning words from Sesame Street like "fragile," "quest," "fragrance," and "investigate." She has also adored having nursery and Sunday school classes just for kids her age and many times she has come home from church with a song on her lips and a new verse in her heart. The other day she was saying, "This is my commandment, that you love one another!"

As we get ready to jump back into life in Bissau we're praying that God will guide us on our three-day trip across the ocean and give us the ability to make all of the different transitions involved in working and living in Guinea-Bissau.

Jason + Emily



Homeschool curriculum for kindergarten and first grade given to me by a friend! I'm definitely feeling very blessed!



Savannah loves to lay in Nathaniel's little play gym with him. I loved that they were both patting each others' bellies.



This is what two years of essentials from Sam's for our family and some friends looks like! What kinds of things could you not live without?



Kissing her brother right before she used her stethoscope to check his vitals ☺.

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