



The Atkins Family

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We're back in Canchungo, settling back into life and work in our African home.

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The standing little girl was telling a story and the other kids were all listening.

Computers at the Youth Center in Bissau By Jason

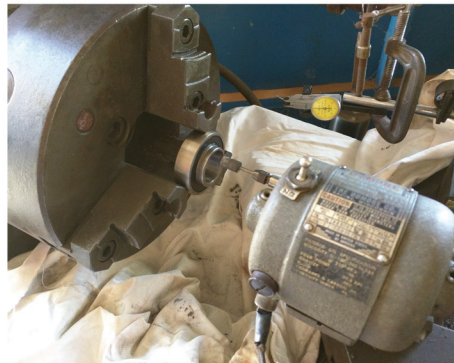
As we're getting set back up for life and work in Guinea Bissau, we hit the ground running with a few urgent requests that couldn't wait for us to be "ready." Youth For Christ Guinea-Bissau had several computer issues that urgently needed to be resolved, as the viruses were causing typing and some computer classes to be canceled. Fortunately, we were able to begin the clean-up process to allow classes to resume after Easter break. For the next few weeks we will be cleaning, unpacking, putting out fires, and fixing things that broke in our absence; then we will be able to get back into the rhythm of normal life and work here in Guinea-Bissau.

Where's Granger When You Need It? By Jason

We flew over with suitcases full of supplies for several projects and the shop, in addition to the normal clothes, presents for friends, etc. One of those supplies was a pair of new bearings to replace bad ones on one of the drinking water filter factory's primary machines, a hammer mill (yard chipper/shredder). The



Jason installing the new bearing at the drinking water filter factory.



Hand turning the lathe to adapt the bearing we brought.

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mill is used to pulverize the clay and sawdust that the filters are made of. The factory workers have been trying to stay busy, but essentially treading water, since the mill went down a few months ago. It was high on our priority list to make sure that they were able to resume work as soon as possible. A trip to the factory our first week back revealed, however, that the replacement bearings were a few thousandths of an inch too small – just enough to prevent them from allowing the shaft to fit.

Removing the little bit of extra material to allow them to fit is normally an easy task on the lathe in our shop. However, the shop machines were still tarped, and the solar power system at the school still broken enough that it couldn't supply power to run the lathe anyway. Fortunately, there are several ways to get the same job done, even if the other ways are much slower. By spinning the lathe by hand and using an overgrown Dremel tool, I slowly widened the hole, and was able to get the machine back up and running. We're hopeful that with the mill going again, the workers will be able to get a stable production level going at the factory and start to get filters into the hands of families who need them!

Nathaniel's Prayers by Emily
Nathaniel loves to pray. He thanks God for things like milk and stories, and makes requests like, "please heal Mommy so she's not yucky anymore" when I have a runny nose. About a week after we got here, he was praying with me and he said, "Thank you for loving me. Thank you for helping me goodbye people, and all the goodbyes. We love you Jesus. Amen"

When he finished I asked him how Jesus helps him 'goodbye.' He matter-of-factly said, "Jesus helps me because I need help, because it's too sad, so I can't do it, because I love, because I need to goodbye, because Jesus helps me."

I kissed him and wiped away a tear because the truth is that Jesus helps me too. Every time we leave one of our homes to come to the other, the pain and sadness are so overwhelming, it just feels like too much. I hadn't talked to Nathaniel yet about bringing that specific pain to God, because this trip back from the U.S. to Guinea-Bissau is really the first time that goodbyes have been hard for him, but the pattern we're always striving to set of praying in every season seems to be sinking in. Over the past few weeks, in the whirlwind of readjustment for our family, I've been reminding myself that the same Jesus who gives my two-year-old the strength to 'goodbye' when it's too sad, is also by my side.



Joel & Jason strolling the little ones during our week in Germany on the way to Guinea-Bissau.



Three friends from Bissau came for the day of games, food, and swimming in our river last Saturday.



Everyone loves story time with Mommy.



Holly, Emily, and I with our purchases after a trip to the market.

Jason & Emily