



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau with



February 2018

A pump, peanuts,
and a party!

Dancing The Day Away by Emily

Our church here in Canchungo is connected with a Brazilian Assemblies of God church just outside of Boston. Each year that church sends a team to Canchungo to serve the church here. The teams always come with a huge amount of love and such a beautiful servant-hearted attitude. One of the things that the team from Boston did this year was to spend an entire Saturday ministering to the women of our church. The women from our church and a church plant in a neighboring town joined together and several women brought friends along, so we had a great sized group.

First we feasted under the cashew trees, then we had a beautiful service where we danced until we couldn't dance anymore and heard teaching from the three women on the team. Five women were saved, and after we celebrated that, we had a second feast with chocolate cake and, of course, more dancing and fun. We all left feeling strengthened and encouraged. My favorite part was being surrounded by Guineans from different tribes, Brazilians, and Americans all praising God together.



Let the feast begin!



A good-looking group.

Working For Peanuts by Jason

Years ago we were given a plywood box with parts in it from The Full Belly Project. They make kits whose purpose is to allow the creation of cheap but effective hand-powered peanut shelling machines. The hope is that by making shelling machines available cheaply, people in areas that grow ground nuts will be more easily able to process and eat them to help alleviate malnutrition.

I have been hoping to make time to use their kit and forms to make one of the machines for years, so we could see how well it works compared to the way shelling is being done in Guinea-Bissau right now - either by hand or on locally fabricated manual machines. Fortunately, God's timing brought us together with another American missionary couple, Travis and Sarah Lacey, who are involved in an agricultural ministry in the southern part of Guinea-Bissau where a lot of peanuts are grown! The Laceys came to visit Canchungo for a long weekend and Travis and I were able to get the kit figured out and make a sheller for them to take back home with them to



Working For Peanuts (cont'd) by Jason

... try out. It's encouraging to connect with other ministries who are doing projects that our metalworking abilities can help with!

The initial tests of the machine look pretty good! Unfortunately, the two main parts of the machine are made out of cast concrete, and in order to get the Laceys on the road, we rushed the parts' removal from the forms, so one of the two halves cracked after being used for a few minutes. When we visit their part of the country later this year, we'll bring the forms along to remake that part, and then they'll be able to put the design through its paces in the field, to see if it's better than the current method and decide if it's worth setting up a small project to manufacture them. We could make the metal parts in our shop, as well as a stand for the finished machine to sit on, from there one person could make several machines a week pretty easily.

Travis cleaning up the concrete casting.



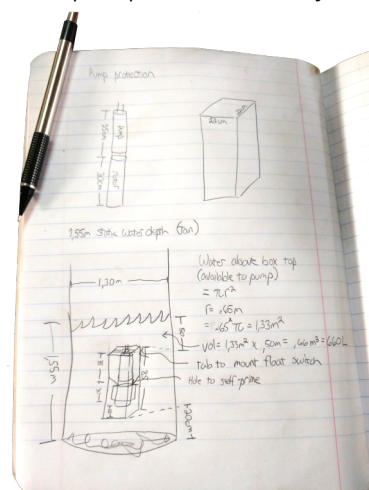
Fixing The School Pump: Take 3 by Jason

For the third time in as many years, the well pump at WAVS' vocational school died. The pump is in a hand dug well (you know, like the kind Lassie always used to have to rescue Timmy from). Unfortunately, the well isn't deep enough, and as the water table falls during the dry season (now), the pump, if not carefully



monitored, can be hanging above the fallen water level, and if left on, shred itself eventually. The well also has a lot of clay in it, which because of the shallow water level, often gets stirred up and sucked through the pump, wearing it out prematurely. The eventual solution will be to rent a trash pump and have the well diggers come back, digging a few more yards while the pump keeps the water cleared. This can be done most effectively at the end of the dry season in a few months.

In the meantime, however, the school and church that share the well both needed water! So, after a replacement pump was brought over, I went to work devising a way to keep the clay out of the pump, and to make sure the pump stayed cool by directing the flow of the water along the body of the pump like it would be in a drilled well as it was designed.



Using some stainless steel sheet scavenged from the scrap yard, I made a "well within the well" to make sure the water would travel the way we wanted, and filled the bottom with rocks to keep it from floating and add a bit of filtration. The solution has worked well for the last month, although it can only pump for about 6 minutes an hour before exhausting the water in the well. I have a timer set and while I'm in the shop, just send and cut power to the pump manually. The supplies we sent last year, which should arrive soon, include some float switches so hopefully we can automate the process of the pump turning on and off, at which point I will happily turn my hourly timer off and be glad to be rid of the constant interruption! But in the meantime, the bathrooms at the school smell a LOT better now that there's running water to flush the toilets!



Above: The pump installed in the inner water-directing jacket.
Below: Installed in the outer jacket, ready to lower into the well.

Once the system had water in it again, we didn't have much trouble discovering the leaks that had developed in the underground plumbing in the meantime!



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