



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau with



December 2018

Finishing 2018 with staff
training and a Brazilian
Christmas festival!

Making Progress *by Emily*

This December I got together with staff at the vocational school for another week of staff training. It wasn't all work, I planned "minute to win it" games each day and we had an all-staff Christmas lunch; but between the fun we had lots of really productive sessions, especially with the teachers.



personal reviews that we introduced in September to realize when this was happening. With Jenna and Jason's help they were able to make changes throughout the semester to stay on pace and finish the material by the end, which is a huge win for our students.



Emily and Jenna, the dynamic teacher-training duo!

In our last training (in September) we worked on lots of different practical strategies for organization. One of the big problems that we normally have is the classes getting further and further behind during the semester, which leaves important material untaught by the end. The follow up during this training time was so encouraging. The teachers had been using the weekly

Tropical Christmas *by Emily*

Whenever we are in Guinea-Bissau over the holidays we try to get out to Gabu (a city about four hours inland from us) for Christmas. Brazilian missionaries from all over that region get together (and generously let us Americans tag along) for several days of meat roasting, games, feasting, and fun. Jason brought his virtual reality headset out this year and we had the group game "Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes" going with people using the manuals in English and Portuguese and shouting instructions in a mix of those two languages and Creole.

On Christmas Eve all of the adults took communion together and prayed for the work of the Gospel in our own hearts and all across Guinea-Bissau. The majority of the missionaries around the table with us have been in Guinea-Bissau for 8, 10, or even 12 years (though we did have some newer people too) and it was exciting for me to look around and think about all that God has done in



All of the adults around the table for the Christmas eve communion and feast.

Tropical Christmas (cont'd) by Emily

... their lives and through their ministries.



Many board games were played over the Christmas break!



Suerda, Emily, and Jenna heading to the market in Gabu to buy food for the Christmas feast.

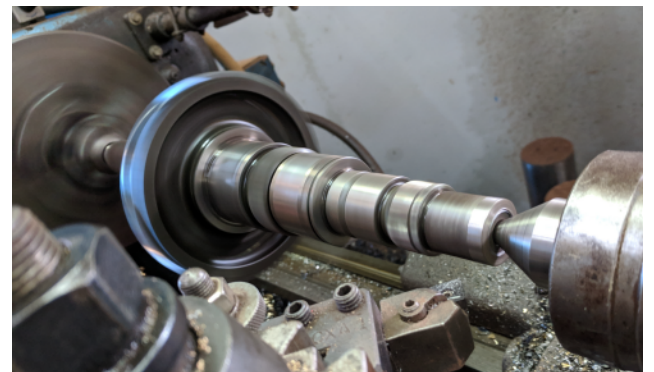
Quidam by Jason

I'm thankful for the help of a longtime school staff member. His name is Quidam (kee-dahm). He's a mason and helped build the school a decade ago, but has been the head guard since then. Recently, he changed into a newly created role as the facility maintenance guy at the school. He also spends time helping out in my shop when there isn't anything that needs to be fixed around the school. Last month was his first time to use a welder, working on the water filter factory shelves pictured in the November newsletter. I showed him how to weld the first shelf, worked with him doing the welding on the second, and then he made the third and fourth with almost no help from me! We're always hoping to find opportunities to "teach a man to fish" and multiply our ability to help projects impacting Guinea-Bissau all at the same time. In addition to being a joy to be around, Quidam is a smart guy and a sponge for new skills.



This gearbox shaft had a worn bearing seat which needed to be reduced and a custom bushing mated over it. The end result was perfect!

This month he also helped me with a few machining jobs and has aptitude for that kind of exacting work. I'm hopeful that he'll be able to continue growing into that area to eventually be able to continue using our machinery to do these kind of repair jobs for customers from the community even when we're away.



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