



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

November 2019

The shipping container
loaded with equipment
is on its way to Bissau!

Joy In Goodbye *by Emily*

The 1:1 match that doubles donations to buy our new base is still available!

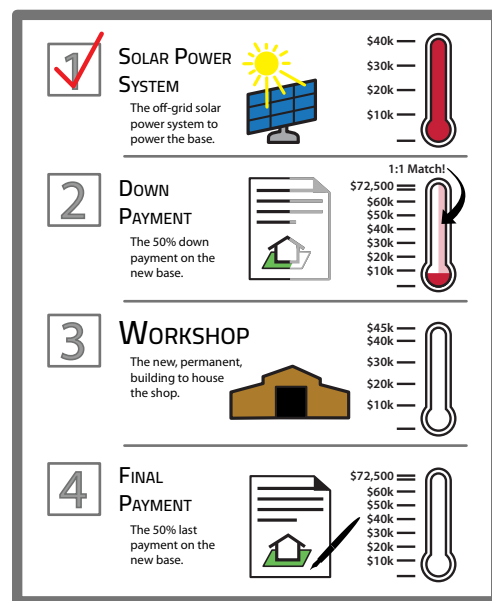
I heard a funny saying recently: if you live in the north and you chose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life, but the same amount of snow. I laughed because the snow and I are not friends, but then I realized that the same analogy applies in so many areas, including how easy it is to choose not to find joy in saying goodbye.

Most of us would readily admit that we are not good at goodbyes. There is just something inherently wrong about leaving people, places, and things that we love. However, with my life lived on two continents, (until the invention of the teleporter) I cannot avoid goodbyes; but I can look for the joy; and again and again I have found it.

Often the act of saying goodbye makes people take the time to say things that they might otherwise forget to say. This past Sunday was our final Sunday in the U.S. and I was in tears again and again as so many people at church took the time to say goodbye, most of them relating a meaningful moment we had shared over the past 5 months. It made me think about how often we don't normally take the time to tell people about the impact they are having on our lives.

Knowing that a goodbye is coming also helps me to say yes to things right now. Should we make a giant mess in the kitchen learning how to make cream puffs and lemon meringue pie? Sure! Should we stay up late for a hilarious game of Yahtzee? You bet!

So for me, the joy in goodbye is found not when I forget about it, but when it motivates me to take the time to be present while we're together, and the time to acknowledge people's impact on me when I go. Over the next few days, as we prepare to head back to Guinea-Bissau, I will be eating my last bagel, weighing my suitcases again and again as I try to get everything in and balanced, and taking the time to find the joy in saying goodbye.



Final Push *by Jason*

The final month in the U.S. has been a blur! We spent a great time with Emily's family in Little Rock for Thanksgiving and then made the dash back up north for a crazy seven days that involved working in the snow, rain, and five 14-hour workdays to finish the shipping container buying, packing, and sending. We did manage to get it all done, and the container sent with a few days to spare before we fly out—but only with some major help from several people including my parents, PTL Engineering, Legacy Metal Services, and Attica Automation.

This shipping container set a record for us, the first time we've ever hit 45,000 pounds of cargo (the weight of seven Suburbans). In the midst of previous containers, I've thought "I'm never doing this again." This one was no different—and though I'd like to say that as we locked the container doors and the truck pulled away, it all seemed worth it, but at 9pm with me, my dad, and David Trombley all grubby and totally exhausted, nothing but food and sleep sounded good! (continued on the back)



After days of staging, the actual loading took 5.5 hours, and was exhausting even with the help of forklifts and a loading dock!

Final Push (cont'd) by Jason

(...) Fortunately, a few days on, sore muscles have healed, and I can step back and reflect on the importance of what was collected and shipped. The solar power system that we spent a year and a half putting up at Youth For Christ in Bissau, but which has been broken for the last six, will have a fresh set of batteries and a new start. YFC will also have a new batch of laptops for their computer labs. The WAVS vocational school in Canchungo will have a new set of solar batteries which will let evening classes coexist with welding department production ramping back up (not to mention supporting my shop's equipment until our new base is ready!) The solar power system to power our new base and shop will also be there and ready when we have a building to install it on. My shop will finally have a metal cutting shear that can cut the whole width of a piece of sheet metal, rather than



This 6,000 pound computerized milling machine needed to be moved from the shop where it's been stored to the loading location. We moved it out of the shop rolling on round pipe and pulled it up the trailer ramps with the winch. I sure was happy we got it onto the trailer safely and be done with that job!

having to trim a 4" strip off of the long side of the sheet before it can fit! Our (and I'm pretty sure, the country's) first computerized milling machine will add some amazing new capabilities. The walk-behind forklift that helped move around much of what ended up in the container and was itself one of the last things to be put into the container will be tremendously helpful to safely move large pieces of metal around the shop. Agricultural supplies sent by our teammates will help further their sustainable farming ministry in the south of Guinea-Bissau. The drinking water filter factory will have a new solar power system providing their first electricity and allowing several machines that are currently human-powered to be sped up by being electrified.

We greatly appreciate the contributions of our supporters that made this project possible. This container will directly bless the ministries of six different organizations in Guinea-Bissau and we are grateful to have had the time and resources to send it. The container is set to arrive in Bissau on February 1st. From there, we will begin the customs process. Please begin to pray with us for a smooth clearing process, as they are often difficult. We're hopeful to have the container cleared, delivered to Canchungo, and set down in its new permanent home around the beginning of April.



To Give Online:

At JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/give you can make a one-time donation or set up an automatic monthly donation by EFT or credit card.

To Give By Check:

Please make checks payable to:
Hope Remembered / P.O. Box 5 / Fosters, AL 35463
with "Atkins" in the memo.