



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,  
West Africa

Sept/Oct 2020

It's great to be back in  
the U.S. for the quarter!

## Family by Emily

We had been hoping and praying for months to be able to get back to the U.S. this year, but Guinea-Bissau's borders and airport had been closed since mid-March. In September the airport reopened and we were able to fly out October 3rd. It took 3 days for us to get from our home in Canchungo to Jason's parents' house in Michigan, and, after only a little over a week there, we hightailed it down to Arkansas to spend my mom's 60th birthday together.

For the past two years my mom, Linda, has been battling ovarian and breast cancers with tremendous courage, unshakable faith, and a deep conviction that God can lead her around it, lead her through it, or take



her home. She has been through surgeries, rounds of chemo, and other treatments. The cancer has spread throughout her limbic system and abdomen and is growing very rapidly despite continued treatment, and her doctors have said that she has less than a year.

Obviously our whole family is deeply heartbroken, and we continue to pour out our own desires for healing and wholeness to God. He hears them all, and I know for a fact that one day my mom will be whole (either on earth or eternally). Over the past two years, God has beautifully answered so many prayers for my mom's peace, joy, and ability to endure. God has given me opportunities to love other people in similar heartbreak, and is teaching all of us to treasure His nearness and joyfully anticipate our perfect home in heaven.

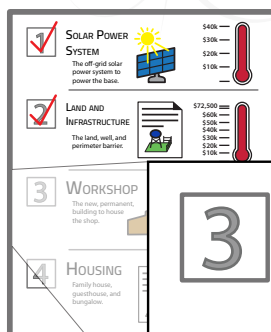
We plan to be in the U.S. for three months, with most of October and November in Little Rock with my family and December with friends and family in Michigan. We are so thankful that God made a way for us to come back right now.

## New Life For Old Doors by Jason

Before we left, we needed to close up a few things at the new site to be able to leave it secure for the people who will watch it for us while we're away. After we moved to Canchungo and Youth For Christ converted my old shop to a classroom by closing up the big bay doorways, I saved the rolling barn doors I had made for it. We're now repurposing them (after some modification) to be car gates in the perimeter wall at the new site! We poured a track for them to roll on, and I made some solid wheels for them. A new coat of paint really brightened them up. Once we return I...



Pouring the gate support beam with a piece of spine-up angle iron for the wheels to roll on.

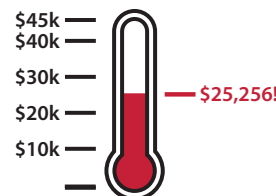


## New Base Fundraising Progress

3

### WORKSHOP

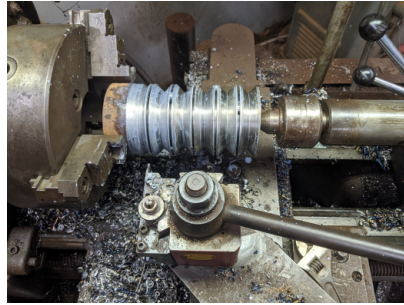
The new, permanent,  
building to house  
the shop.





## New Life For Old Doors (cont'd) *by Jason*

(cont'd) still need to make the retainers and locking mechanism for them, but for now they're tied to the columns and closing the gap, at least.



*As most of my machining projects do, it all started with some rusty scrap-yard metal!*

*Solid-steel gate track wheels, check.*



*The maroon doors that I built for my workshop building in Bissau are seeing new life!*



*The door turned into gate which will welcome our visitors!*

## Bull In A China Shop *by Jason*

Another project before coming back to the U.S. was to deliver the solar power system batteries that came in our shipping container for the drinking water filter factory and Youth For Christ. Identical batteries came for our system as well, and their 2,000 pound twins weren't difficult for us to manipulate at our new site, where they were moving on fresh, level concrete. However, these needed to be offloaded from the truck using some ingenuity. In the case of the one for YFC, it also required renting a forklift to lift into the 2nd-story room where the solar system is installed. The forklift sunk into the thin concrete it was driving on, and was barely able to get unstuck and finish the job, but in the end it was successful, and no one was hurt! The battery at the filter factory will be part of the solar system I'll mount for them next year, and the one at YFC brought the solar system I installed from them many years ago partially back to life. Turning it back on revealed several other things that were damaged in the meantime and now need to be replaced. One step at a time!



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