

May Showers (cont'd) *by Jason*

(...) mixed and poured and mixed and poured. (There are no cement trucks here, so all of the concrete was mixed on-site with the help of our trusty one-sack gas-powered cement mixer from the '80s.)

Late-May Update: To date, the guys have a couple more days of digging and then we have several days of pouring to finishing the footings. Though we got a light rain last week, a big damaging rain has yet to fall, so we're coming down to the wire but hoping to squeak in just in time!

Weekend In Pelundo *by Emily*

Several years ago I was the speaker at the winter retreat at Simpson Park Camp (in Romeo, Michigan), and this past month I was the speaker for a youth retreat here in Guinea-Bissau. At the retreat in Michigan we huddled around heaters and campfires, sipping hot cider with our hoodies on, but at this retreat I was preaching in a tiny open-air church with temperatures over 100 each day, sweating before they even handed me the microphone. In both places the Lord laid a series of messages on my heart and gave me everything I needed to communicate clearly.



Here in Guinea-Bissau a group of thirty 12-to-18-year-olds, from our church and our church plant in the neighboring town, gathered for a three-day deep dive into Exodus looking at obedience. People hardly ever preach for less than 45 minutes here, and when I got the schedule I saw that my while the Friday night slot was 45 minutes, my two Saturday slots were an hour and half each, and on Sunday morning I needed to speak for 2 hours! God gave me lots of ideas to keep the teaching interactive, keep the kids laughing, and He kept me from getting tongue-tied as I spoke in Portuguese Creole - though by the following Tuesday I had completely lost my voice, haha.

I love spending time with teenagers, and most of the kids at the retreat didn't come from Christian families and came to faith because of the influence of a friend in the past few years. I was overjoyed to have a small part in making God's character and calling clear to them in such a pivotal phase of their lives.

Church Ladies *by Emily*



One thing that church ladies do over here is cook! Every time there is a wedding, church party, or even just a large get-together, you will find a group of church ladies there first thing in the morning. They gather under a group of cashew or mango tress and get to work: sweeping the ground, gathering wood, peeling onions, pounding garlic and hot peppers, seasoning meat, chopping veggies, lighting fires, rinsing rice, and brewing juice to tie up in little baggies to chill in coolers full of ice. I have been part of these gathering more times than I can count, gradually getting entrusted with more and more complicated jobs. I am happy to report that I can pound up seasonings and tie juice bags with the best of

them, and I'm by far the fastest onion chopper around. I'm not super great at the machete work of butchering, and no one lets me stir the full cauldrons of rice (the job of the head cook present), so I've still got some skills to learn, but these days of cooking and chatting are some of very favorite in Guinea-Bissau.



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