



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

Oct / Nov 2022

With 90° temps, we're
glad to be back in our
tropical home!

Settling In Back Home *by Emily*

On our trip back to Guinea-Bissau in early November we spent five days in Fes, Morocco. Up to this point all of our time in Africa has been in west Africa, and it was so cool to experience the very different north African culture of Morocco. As an American, with our country's fairly young history, it was pretty cool to stay in a 400-year-old house in the middle of a walled city full of tiny, winding alleyways that were built over a 1000 years ago!



Exploring the open-air Moroccan bazaar.

Getting settled in Canchungo got off to a rocky start with misrouted carry-on luggage and a broken solar power system at our house. The luggage did come a week later, and after two weeks of power just during the day, we were able to get a new battery

compatible with the solar power system. We now have 24-hour fans, lights, and refrigeration again.

One especially fun thing is that Nathaniel hadn't forgotten any of his Portuguese Creole this time away, and he and Savannah have been having a ball reuniting with all of their friends. Miriam however did forget quite a bit and is naturally the shyest of the bunch. Please pray that I find the right Creole tutor to help her develop some confidence and a few good friends she could play with in a smaller group.



Emily loves a good cactus!



So many ordinary things in Morocco are covered by intricate tile mosaics!

Big Box Of Goodness! *by Jason*

As we mentioned in August, we spent the fall collecting equipment and supplies for a shipping container. This involved a lot of time researching, buying, and packing material for us and a couple of partner organizations. We have a lot of exciting stuff in the container, and some other less exciting but still important stuff as well!

Here are a few of the highlights:

- Concrete tools including a new (really old) cement mixer to complement our current one which doesn't keep up on slab pouring days, a power trowel to help get our floors flatter and smoother, and a bunch of hand trowels and finishing tools. We have a lot of concrete work ahead of us and are mighty glad for the tools to get the work done!
- Construction materials for the next several buildings including used kitchen cabinets for our house, toilets, lumber, rough-sawn maple from my parents' woods from which to make some of our house doors, water pipe, steel doors, electrical conduit, and garage doors.
- Equipment to set up a small carpentry shop including a shaper, a planer from the 70's, a tablesaw from the 80's, and a jointer from (I believe) the 60's. They need varying levels of TLC, but the (cont'd)



Big Box Of Goodness! (cont'd) by Jason

(...) great prices allowed us to get the basics of a good shop pretty cheaply. We'll use the equipment to make the wooden parts of our school desks as well as a lot of the furniture for our house and guest spaces. (It's kind of funny that although we've lived here a long time, it's always been in rented, furnished places, so we don't have much furniture to move into our new house when the time comes.)

- The Caterpillar tracked loader that we featured last month will be a huge help in so many areas of construction. As I look around, there are so many jobs waiting for it already!
- A few new (to us) machines for the workshop will upgrade/replace some equipment we have already to increase capabilities and throughput. The machines that are being replaced will be rehomed to the WAVS welding program and will be nice upgrades to their current equipment.
- Our kids saved money to buy bicycles for themselves, and my parents helped them find some great deals on used bikes, so those will be fun for them to be able to roam a slightly wider range in our neighborhood and easily get between our current house and the project land.
- The drinking water filter factory sent another 600 or so empty boxes that they'll use to package finished filters for sale, as well as some equipment and spare parts for their machines.
- WAVS sent a lot of equipment for their programs including curriculum, welding supplies, chairs to furnish new classrooms, and some construction material as well.

It's a very exciting collection of goodies that will help supply us for the next year and a half of construction. However, as you might imagine, it was no small feat to get it all rounded up, packaged, and loaded into a shipping container! It never is, but this time brought the additional complication that despite months of notice from us, a last-minute shipping delay meant the container wasn't available to be loaded until after we had already left!

Thankfully, although this would have been a huge thing to ask of someone, my dad and the team at PTL Engineering (where we had staged all of the material to be ready to load) offered to take care of the load day. It was a humongous help, and they did an awesome job. What a relief! The container is now working its way toward us via truck, train, and ship, and should arrive in Bissau in early February. Please join us in thanking God for the success thus far: the provision to be able to collect all of this equipment, the help to get it all packed up, and the heroic effort that was put in to get it all loaded.



All of the lifting and shuffling around of equipment and crates during the loading process gave me lots of time to get familiar with the operation of the new skid steer! It was extremely helpful!



We bought beautiful kitchen cabinets from a remodel for our new house!



A metalworking auction yielded a great deal on a wide format printer which will be great for all kinds of blueprints and banners!



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