



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

July / Aug 2026

Catching up with family and
friends all across the USA!

Looking For Auction Pick Up Help *by Jason*

As you might be able to imagine, it's quite expensive to run a machine shop. One of the biggest ways we've been able to save money on equipment and supplies for the shop in Canchungo is by buying the bulk of it at industrial auctions here in the U.S., usually small shops going out of business or their owners retiring. This stuff has been staged in a storage area at my parents' place in Michigan, then periodically we've sent everything over to Guinea-Bissau by loading a shipping container.

One of the biggest difficulties in this ongoing process is the distance to some of the auctions, as they pop up randomly in different areas. We generally focus on the ones closest to southeastern Michigan because they're the easiest for us to get to. When I'm not there during a furlough, my dad often goes to pick up the stuff I've bought. (The auctions happen online.)

While, of course, sometimes it's big equipment that I'm after, increasingly we have most of the equipment we need and are now often after smaller, lighter consumables and tooling, many of which would fit in a UPS box quite easily. So, I'm recruiting if anyone would be willing to help periodically! If we had a few people in different areas (especially mid and west Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and California) who wanted to be part of this process, it would help widen our net, so to speak. The idea would be that I could expand to watching auctions online in those areas, bid and then pay, and have someone nearby go pick up the stuff, throw it in a shipping box, and then mail it to my parents' house where it would collect until the next shipping container is sent.

I have asked a few people to do this in the past and it's gone quite smoothly, but I hesitate to ask people who haven't already volunteered, fearing they might not feel free to decline.

So, if you'd be available to help with this every once in a while, please send us a message!



The joy of a good auction haul to supply the shop!

Summer So Far *by Emily*

July in Michigan was full of fun with an extended-family camping trip, our 22nd wedding anniversary, speaking at Lapeer Community Church, and 10 days at Simpson Park Camp. We also had 11 dentist appointments between the 5 of us, but those were less fun.

In August, we kicked off a ten-week road trip to see family and friends in various places and update supporters and churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Illinois. Our first stop was the lovely mountains of West Virginia to see my grandma, aunt, and uncle.

Then we journeyed on to North Carolina to visit our friend Jenni and her four kids. After that we spent a week with dear friends in South Carolina where our car began to have quite a bit of trouble (cont'd)



Miriam, Nathaniel, and their cousin, Theo, had a ton of fun with this comically large inflatable camel during our camping trip.

Summer So Far (cont'd) by Emily

... with the anti-lock break system. We did make it to my sister's house in Mississippi where we got to spend a few days with her family before heading to my dad's house in Arkansas.

Here in Arkansas, the kids and I have kicked off the school year (10th, 8th, and 5th grades), and Jason has been working on our car, keeping the construction going in Guinea-Bissau, and getting caught up on a pile of desk work.



All of the kids loved our tour of Cook's Farm Dairy.



Nathaniel taking part in a hilarious play during the teen talent show.



Worship in the Tabernacle at Simpson Park.



Miriam and her friends at Camp.



It's always fun to see my grandma, Marie.



Do I detect some s'mores?



How many cousins does it take to tower over the adults? 2!



Lunch with the Simpson Park team who came over to Guinea-Bissau in February.



Watch out for the waves in South Carolina.



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