

The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah, Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa

September 2026

September in AR, MS, OK, IL, and CA!

Rainy Season Progress *by Jason*

During our times in the U.S., my mind never really leaves the work my crew is doing in Guinea-Bissau. Partially that's because I'm excited about what's going on, and partially it's because my guys have almost daily questions about the drawing I left them to work from, or a piece of equipment that's not behaving as expected, or trouble with some system at the site. We've passed the half-way point of this furlough and I'm starting to get more and more excited about the work waiting for us when we return!



The inside of the shop is plastered and spackled, ready for paint and electrical!



The outside of the shop is only missing a few last sections of paint.



Over the past few months my crew back in Canchungo has been busily working on inside projects as the rain has fallen outside. Fortunately, with the shop's roof complete, they have a nice dry place to work. (Although as the roof came down to the last day, I didn't have time to install lighting in the main section before we left, so they've been working with whatever ambient light comes in the translucent wall panels around the top!)

The masons began by plastering and spackling the inside walls of the newly-roofed parts of the shop. When we return, it'll be time for paint, electrical, and moving machines into place! While the masons wait for the rains to end so they can get to plastering in the house, they've been bending up the main rebar skeletons still needed to complete the house walls, so that the skeletons will be ready when we need them as the remaining walls go up.



Rebar skeletons for reinforced concrete columns and beams for the rest of our house have been tied and will be ready to speed progress.



Left: The metalworkers have made a lot of security grating for the windows of our new house!

The metalworkers have been finishing up some security grating and a pair of doors to be able to lock the whole shop. Then they transitioned to the security grating for the windows of the house. It's exciting to have so much leg-work being done so that when we return in December we'll be ready to make the fur fly!

God's Presence in Everything *by Emily*

Reflecting back on the month of September, I am once again humbled and amazed by the nearness of God in every circumstance of our lives. On the day that we celebrated my Dad's wedding to Jessica, I felt God's joy in my dad's joy, and God's peace as we began a new season of navigating new extended family dynamics. (cont'd)



Right: My sister, Amanda officiated at Jessica and Dad's wedding 💗

God's Presence in Everything (cont'd) *by Emily*

(...) As we said goodbye to my sister's husband, Josh, I was surrounded by God's compassion for our sorrow, and His steadfast presence in the face of a death that felt so unfair.



As we left Arkansas and spent time in Oklahoma and Illinois, and then flew out to California, I felt God's strength, enabling me to be present with dear friends at each place.

As I prepared messages to share in churches and a Bible study group, I felt His leading and wisdom. And, as I shared those messages, I saw Him at work, touching hearts and bringing encouragement and conviction.

Our God is active all around us, in us, and through us each and every day. The earth truly is full of His glory. Whether life is joyous, painful, stretching, or even just monotonous, in the middle of it all, it is still an amazing privilege to be His child, His ambassador, and His friend!



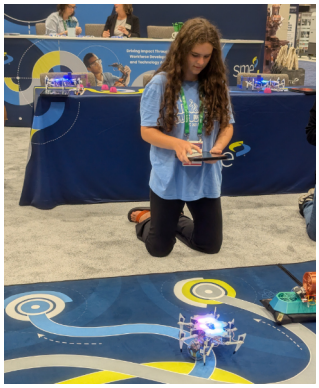
Tubing on a lake in Illinois.



Paul and Virginia Nurmi have blessed our lives in a million ways over the past 2 decades.



Jason was in his element at the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS) in Chicago. Here Fanuc is showing off one of its largest robots by casually having it wave a Corvette around.



Savannah got to drive a tablet-controlled dancing spider robot at IMTS.



Driving a moon lander simulator at the NASA's IMTS booth.



Preaching at Healdsburg Community Church.

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