

## Back in the US



So much has happened since our last update. Things have been crazy all over the world and Guinea Bissau hasn't been any different. Right after Sarah's parents left in March, Guinea Bissau began taking measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Over the past few months the cases of Covid-19 have rapidly multiplied and the government has continued to impose tough restrictions on the population to try and prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. We decided that the wisest thing for us to do was to try and quarantine ourselves off as recommended by the government, but that was difficult since people didn't understand why we were taking precautions. We wanted people to continue to be able to get water from our well so we installed a spigot in the corner of our property so they could still get drinking water while maintaining the recommended social distance from us. Since late March all of the land borders and airports have been shut down. The government also restricted movement between cities and imposed lots of restrictions on businesses. Since we buy a lot of our materials in Bissau, this made getting the materials that we need to do our work very difficult.

After talking with the American embassy in Senegal we started to contemplate if it would be better to evacuate back to the US if the opportunity presented itself. We prayed about it and felt it would be best to be ready to evacuate if possible since we were pretty much just quarantined to our house and we may have been doing more damage to our relationships with our neighbors by staying there. On May 11th we got word that there would be a flight evacuating Europeans back to Portugal. We decided to look into it and found out on May 13th that there were a few spaces left if we wanted to take advantage of the opportunity. The flight was scheduled to fly out on May 15th. Needless to say that didn't give us much time to pack and get our house in order. We traveled to Bissau early on May 15th only to learn that our flight had been canceled. They said it was rescheduled for Wednesday, May 20th so we decided to stay in Bissau until then. On Tuesday they canceled it again and rescheduled it for Friday. Thankfully it actually did leave on that Friday, May 22nd. It would have been difficult to return to Quebo since we had already said our goodbyes and given away all of our food so that rats wouldn't take over our house while we are away. We arrived in the US on May 24th and are at home in Indiana right now under quarantine. Thankfully it has been almost 2 weeks and we haven't shown any signs of Covid-19. We have been recovering from jet lag and getting settled in our Indiana home. We are so thankful that Samuel did well traveling and seems to be adjusting well. He enjoys the cooler weather

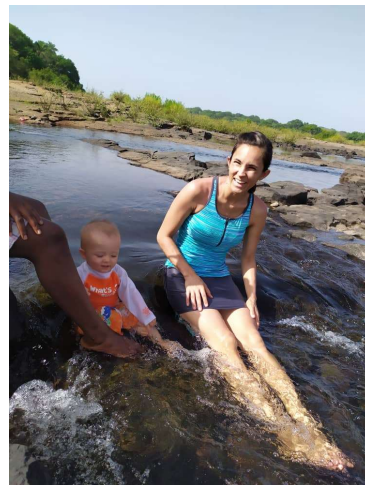


Our neighbors came over to say goodbye.



There are some blessings that come with being under quarantine. Things slowed down so we had time to focus on some home improvement projects that have needed to get done for a while. Travis was able to help build a water tower at our teammate's house and also work on a garage so that we have a place to park the car during the rainy season.

Below are some of our other quarantine activities: picking cashews, a camping trip to the river, pounding cashew fruit to make juice and jam, and Sarah cleaning the house Guinean-style.



## Praises:

- For the chance to get some home improvement jobs done
- For safe travel to the US
- For Samuel's good adjustment

## Prayer Requests:

- For the people of Guinea-Bissau during the pandemic
- For our colleagues who stayed
- For a good transition back to life in the US
- For God's guidance on when to return and how to best continue supporting the work of our teammates while we are in the states



Check out our website at [hoperemembered.org](http://hoperemembered.org)! If you feel led to partner with Hope Remembered and the work in Guinea-Bissau you can also click on the link to donate or write a check and send it to the address below.

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