



The Atkins Family

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau
www.jasonandemilyatkins.com
jasonpatkins@gmail.com
emilymarieatkins@gmail.com



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Pushing Things Forward by Jason

The drinking water filter factory that we’ve written about previously has been tied up waiting for several approvals for a long time now. We are excited to announce that several of those hurdles have been cleared, and we have officially been asked to begin construction on the building! It will be a simple building at first, in order to begin production – essentially just a slab with columns holding up a steel roof. The factory also needs our shop to make a few things, like drying shelves and a few other miscellaneous metal fixtures.

A chemist and an engineer from California, Richard and Matt, were here for two weeks to visit the WAVS school, the orphanage Matt’s daughter Nia was adopted from, and to continue pushing the filter factory project forward. We were privileged to be able to host them, and translate for them during their trip. We were able to meet with the local organization running the filter project, as well as several prospective partners for the project, including UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund).

The need for this kind of project in Guinea-Bissau has been confirmed each time Richard has visited. He owns a testing lab in California, so each time he comes over, he brings a new kit to test for various impurities in different wells, both public and private, all over the country. This time he brought tests to look for the presence of various bacteria, including E Coli. The photo at the bottom shows the result of the dye test on the well water at our house. The yellow dye remaining yellow indicates lack of bacteria, pink means contaminated. Our well is contaminated with various bacteria (as are most he tested), including E Coli. The second test, which came out clean, was taken from the same well water after it was run through our water filter. The test proves that this kind of filter works – but this filter costs about \$400. The filters the factory will produce will be just as effective, and cost about \$25. Richard has tested many wells in Guinea-Bissau, and has found only one or two whose water would be able to be called drinkable by U.S. standards.

This month we’ll begin hunting down building supplies in the area, and hopefully get as far as pouring the slab. We’re really excited after all this time to finally be able to get going! Honestly, I hadn’t assumed that we’d be able to start right away, and now need to broom out a few other open projects so we can focus on this! The water filter factory has the potential to be a huge help to the population of Guinea-Bissau and a great witness of God’s love in action here. Please pray for safety and speed as we work on this!

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Julio, Jason, Joaquim, and Richard scouting out the filter factory land



Richard testing the bacteria-laden water from our well



Jason translating for Richard in a meeting with UNICEF in the United Nations building

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Water Flowing from the Faucet *by Emily*

Running water was something that I used to take for granted, until I moved over here. In the majority of houses and businesses (including many restaurants and even health clinics) water is pulled up out of a well with a bucket on the end of a rope, and stored in large buckets with a dipper to scoop it out. Collecting it is a slow and painful process, and the large buckets are often contaminated when dirty hands are dipped in along with the scoop.

This month Jason had the opportunity to help install a pump system to provide running water at the WAVS vocational school here in Canchungo. Bathrooms had been built in the school many months ago, but without running water in them they did not work well or smell great. The pipes had been run and the fixtures were in place, so Jason installed and wired up a pump and a pressure tank to pull water up from the well and send it on down the line. Now there is running water in the school, its bathrooms, and the church next door. It's fun to see people who haven't had access to running water get excited about it.

Music Again *by Emily*

Last week I turned on some music and sang along as I cooked lunch. For most people music in the house would probably be a normal occurrence, but I can't remember the last time I did that. Our apartment in Bissau was right in the middle of a constant barrage of noise, and many times we had to yell to each other just to be heard. I never even thought about adding to this noise with music of my own.

When the opportunity came for us to move out to Canchungo, we knew living in a remote area would be an adjustment; we knew it would be work to move, but we thought maybe the change would be a fresh wind. It has been!

After more than a month in our village home, far from the overwhelming noise of the capital city, I feel like my mind is opening up again. I'm excited to see what new doors God is opening up for us here. We've been getting to know the staff at the school and the people in our neighborhood, praying that God would show us how He's working in the lives of the people around us and how He wants us to be involved in that work.

And we're grateful. Grateful to have some more space (at home and in the shop), grateful that God was never far away in the difficult times, and grateful to have music in the house again!

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Jason + Emily



Jason and Richard designing the factory building



The new water pump and blue pressure tank installed next to the well at WAVS vocational school



Digging through piles at the scrap yard to find needed steel



Fishermen in dugout canoes bringing in their catch on the river behind our house in Canchungo



Women buying and selling on the main street in downtown Canchungo



We purchase food one ingredient at a time in the market (here salt, lemons, and onions)