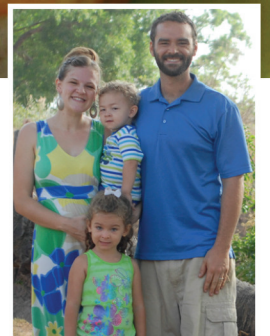




The Atkins Family

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau
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The sawdust screening trommel we made for the drinking water filter factory



The tough new screen to modify the hammer mill (designed to fit into the black piece on the left)



Welding the new steel bed Jason designed for the WAVS truck

Pitching In by Jason

Our hope for the shop is to be able to build just about anything to help move projects forward in Guinea-Bissau. When the Canadian ceramics expert arrived to train the drinking water filter factory crew and build the kiln that will fire the filters, he needed the shop to make and modify several machines. One of those is a screening trommel to make sure that the sawdust, which gets mixed into the clay and then burned out when the filters are fired, is exactly the right size. Too big, and bacteria will flow through with the water; too small and the filter will work too slowly to be useful. Using his design, we were able to make a trommel in just a few days.

We also modified a hammer mill that the factory will use to grind unfired reject bricks from a neighboring factory into fine clay powder, used to make the filters. The mill, sent in our last container, was used as a yard chipper. We made a new screen so the mill could pound the clay into flour-sized pieces instead of mulch-sized. The screen takes a lot of abuse and needs to be tough. After

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laying out the hole pattern to give us the most surface area and machining a jig, we hand-punched about 1,200 holes.

The WAVS school here in Canchungo bought a flatbed truck last year to help with transporting material (including the steel we use) from Bissau. The used truck had a deck and sides made out of badly-rotted wood planks. I worked together with the school's welding program to rebuild the bed out of steel. It's much stronger now and we won't lose any more cargo through gaps in the floor while in transit.

It's exciting to see projects moving forward after so many aid organizations pulled out because of the political instability in 2012. We're honored to be a part of rebuilding Guinea-Bissau!

Baby Atkins *by Emily*

The Atkins family is growing! In the middle of April I suddenly developed a severe allergy to honey which led to a few scary days with a swollen tongue and throat, a few painful weeks with rashes and blisters, and a trip to the capital to see a dermatologist. After several kinds of steroids and antihistamines, the reaction is finally under control. Thank you to everyone who has been praying! The baby is due in October (the same week Savannah turns 5), and we'll be in the U.S. from July to February.

Bursting at the Seams *by Emily*

This past month we have had a house full! Chris and Holly are here for three months and Chris's brother Justin is here for a month. For a little over a week we also had a team of three men from the WAVS U.S. board here in Canchungo. Cooking from scratch for ten people was challenging, but it was a fun challenge. :-)

We have a lot of Guinean friends in our community here, but we miss the time we got to spend with other Americans and Brazilians who often stayed at the guest house behind our apartment in Bissau. Having our house full has its challenges (we only have one bathroom), but having other Americans to interact and work with has been a blessing.

Saxon + Emily



The newly-redesigned WAVS truck loaded with shelving and roof trusses for the filter factory



Installing four solar panels on our house to help with the extra power needed for all of our guests



Savannah cannot resist a baby!



Exploring - wherever Savannah goes Nathaniel is hot on her heels.