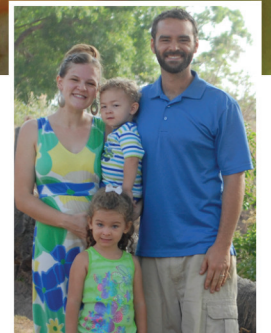




## The Atkins Family

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau  
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## Back in the U.S. anxiously awaiting our new addition!

August 2015



Building and fixing stuff all across the U.S.



Speaking in front of quite the crowd on missionary day at Simpson Park Camp



Em and the soon-to-be three kids enjoying Chick-fil-A

## Please Pray for the People of Guinea-Bissau by Jason

Shortly after we left, a radical shift in the government of our beautiful, unstable, little country occurred. The president fired the Prime Minister Pereira in an address on the radio. The prime minister (educated in California) has done a great job of working with foreign governments to arrange funding for many different development projects and is popular. The two are both from the same political party, who promptly renominated the prime minister. The president ignored his own party and put someone else in the PM's office. The constitution of Guinea-Bissau is written in a way that the president and PM are always in conflict, so now, amidst uncertainty about the current regime, there are calls for the constitution to be redrafted.

The last year has seen a lot of excitement among both the population and the international community about development projects being restarted after the most recent coup in 2012. Please pray that patience will be exercised to help us escape the "one step forward, two back"

Continued on page 2

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cycle that has characterized Guinea-Bissau’s government recently.

**Adjustment** *by Emily*

We’re getting back into the swing of life in the U.S., and the parts of our hearts that were lonely and longing for our friends and family here are being filled. One of the highlights has been seeing Savannah and Nathaniel run to their grandparents, crawl right up into their laps, and start filling them in on all of their thoughts and observations.

Last month Jason and I celebrated our 11th anniversary, and this month marks nine years of working and living in Guinea-Bissau. One of my favorite things about the past decade has been watching God deepen Jason’s servant heart. Just over the past few weeks I’ve seen him happily change a flat tire in the drizzling rain for a struggling stranger in a parking lot, help replace motor mounts in a friend’s RV, buy bolts and repair a piece of playground equipment that was starting to break at church camp, and grab a drill to help my dad finish building a playground for the grandkids before our family reunion.

Even though there are always difficult things about the transition back to the U.S., our family has been blessed with flexible attitudes and lots of opportunities to love the people around us.

**Water Filter Factory Marches Forward** *by Jason*

It’s been great to see many of you since we returned to the U.S. Before leaving Guinea-Bissau we were able to complete the factory roof, just as the rains were starting to get intense. We worked a lot of hours up to the day before leaving in order to both pack at home and get the last piece of roofing up at the factory!

During that time, we also received a second consultant from Potters Without Borders. Burt came to move the production phase of the project forward, hoping to produce the first finished filters. His trip went well, but unfortunately during the first firing cycle, just as the kiln full of filters reached within 100°F of its final 1900°F temperature, the walls supporting the arched roof begin to bow outward, and the kiln roof collapsed. The kiln is made of brick but held together by steel supports. We used the strongest steel we had available, but it was either adjusted too loosely or just wasn’t strong enough.

I will return to Guinea-Bissau in December without Em and the kids to join Kai, the first consultant, to help rebuild the kiln and reinforce it with several layers of laminated steel, and train the Guinean factory staff in the last steps required to produce and verify finished filters. We’ll then be receiving Richard, the chemist and project leader, when we return in March, to help finalize packaging and branding, so the first batch of filters can be sold!

**The Next Few Months** *by Emily*

We kicked off our speaking schedule at Simpson Park Camp and were amazed again to see God use our humble story to speak to so many people. Over the last month we spoke at a few churches in Arkansas and were interviewed on a conservative talk radio station – a first for us. Over the next few months we’re going to be speaking in churches all around Michigan.

While we’re home we’re hoping to raise an additional \$1,300 in monthly support. Some of that is because of our expanding family and the additional expenses of living out in the village, some is for our expanding machine shop, and the rest is to cover the cost of plane tickets for the five of us every other year.

If you have never been a member of our financial support team and you’d like to start, or you’ve been supporting this ministry for years and you’d like to increase the amount you give, your support is always appreciated! Monthly gifts and foundational, one-time donations both help create a solid base from which this ministry can flourish.

If you would like us to come and share about our work in Guinea-Bissau with your church, small group, Bible study, or just a group of friends and neighbors at your house, we’d love that! We’ve always been amazed at the ways God has provided for our family and our ministry over the past nine years through the generous and faithful hands and hearts of His people!

Jason + Emily