



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau with



West African  
Vocational Schools

December 2016

High 80s in the day,  
mid 60s at night;  
"Winter" in Guinea-  
Bissau is great!

## More Truck For The Buck

Last month we told you why we are raising money to swap our 2003 Explorer for a truck, and this month we have an exciting update. Several generous donors have pledged \$4,400 as matching funds. So donations given this month will go twice as far! Once matched, this \$8,800 will go a long way toward the \$11,000 cost of switching our vehicle for something a little newer and a lot tougher. If you'd like to contribute toward this need, donations can be made at [jasonandemilyatkins.com/](http://jasonandemilyatkins.com/) car – thank you!



*Cutting down a piece of plywood in the market. Extra cargo space would be a plus!*

## Making It Work *by Jason*

There's a miracle product, ubiquitous here in Guinea-Bissau. This product puts duct tape to shame as a hillbilly repairman's friend, and you can find it in just about every small town: 6' rubber straps for sale for \$0.25. They're actually old bicycle and car tire inner tubes, cut into long strips when the inner tubes finally reach the end of their long and oft-patched life. They're great for tying loads to bicycles, wrapping around leaky plumbing fittings, getting a good grip on a jar lid, and a thousand other things you wouldn't imagine until you have a few of them handy.



For example, the rear hatch latch on our Explorer broke three years ago. When I found some time to open it up, I found that although the actuator was still working, the steel cable that pulls to release the latch was broken. A piece of the plastic sleeve had broken off, so pulling on the cable didn't pull on the latch anymore. Whipping out some of my handy dandy rubber strapping, I wrapped several layers around it, tightened it with some twisted copper wire (which won't rust away), and put it back together. The fix worked great, and I figured it



would get us by for a while until someone could bring a replacement cable in their luggage when they came to visit from the USA.

The hatch stopped working again earlier this year, and I opened it up expecting to find that my little "repair" had finally let go. Instead, the other end of the cable had now broken in a similar way. I looked around online and apparently it's a common problem—plastic where there should've been metal, and the plastic doesn't last. So, I applied my little repair to the other end of the cable, and it's now working fine again. If anyone from Ford would like to license this brilliant design, just let me know.

I'm considering starting an infomercial empire to market these handy rubber straps. Three for two easy payments of \$19.95!



*Peanut shelling picnic with Jenna.*



*Hanging out at the church Christmas party teaching the board game Quirkle.*

## Thank You! by Emily

When we saw God working in all of the circumstances that led us to join staff with WAVS, Jason (the optimist) was inspired by the opportunity and I (well I would say the 'realist', but I do realize that others might say 'pessimist') was overwhelmed by the many administrative details and differences of the change. After months of prayer, mountains of meetings, and lots of work, we are on the other side of it; and while it hasn't been the seamless cake walk that Jason foresaw, it hasn't been the unmitigated disaster that I feared either :-)) haha!

Actually, we have been blessed again and again by the support and well wishes of Youth for Christ and the help and enthusiasm from WAVS. The biggest thing we're still working on is that not everyone who was giving monthly to our YFC account has been able to switch over to WAVS yet. However, God prompted several people who don't usually



*Where's Waldo? Our kids having a great time at a friend's birthday party.*

support us to send in generous gifts this past month, and since our transition to WAVS, two new families have joined our monthly support team. So even with the transition falling right in the middle of a busy holiday season, we have once again been blessed by God through your hands! We couldn't be here, doing what we're doing without the faithful support of so many families, and to say that we feel grateful to have this opportunity is certainly an understatement!



*Kindergarten with Mom at the desk Dad built.*

**Merry Christmas from  
our family to yours!**



### To Give Online:

At [JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/give](http://JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/give) you can make a one-time donation or set up an automatic monthly donation by EFT or credit card.

### To Give By Check:

Please make checks payable to:  
WAVS / P.O. Box 25455 / Seattle, WA 98165  
with "Atkins" in the memo.