



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau with



West African  
Vocational Schools

March 2017

We hope to see you when we're back in the U.S. this summer and fall. After a fun hodgepodge of planes, trains, and automobiles, we will be arriving on Memorial Day. If you'd like to give a special donation to help with our travel expenses, go to [JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/give](http://JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/give).

## Church by Emily

One of our favorite things about Canchungo is our church. Even though we speak the language and easily interact with the people around us, there are still a lot of places in Guinea-Bissau where we are treated as outsiders; but not at church. There we are part of the family and it's wonderful.

This past month the church had a big party for the kids as an alternative to the crazy party going on downtown for Carnival. I took our kids, and while Nathaniel and Miriam were content to hang out with me to observe the fun, Savannah joined right in all of the games. I love to see her speaking Creole and laughing with her Guinean friends!

Also this past month the moms of the church challenged the young women to a soccer match to celebrate International Women's Day. I'm not much of an athlete, but since most of my best friends were also out on the field, I let them talk me into playing. I'm happy to report that the moms defeated the young women, but I can't really claim too much credit for the victory. :-)

Making church a priority isn't always easy—it's often super hot, the kids have a hard time with the Creole, there's no children's church, and in general most things about the worship are a different style from what we grew up with. I know that anywhere we live there could be a list of reasons why consistently engaging at church is difficult, and we haven't always been great at it, however every truly good thing comes bundled with its challenges, and I'm so grateful for the blessing of being part of the family of God here in Canchungo!



*When blindfolded-Savannah finally caught her blindfolded-friend the giggling was epic!*



*The classic "balance something on a spoon you carry in your mouth" game—here they use lemons instead of eggs.*



*The women's soccer match.*



## Short Term Teams *by Emily*

Jason's parents' visit in January kicked off two months of visitors here in Canchungo. Our friend Richard came to do some more work with the staff of the drinking water filter factory, two churches sent teams to help at the school and record interviews with staff and students, and several staff and board members from WAVS were here to check up on the school and help set the vision for the coming year.

In some ways, it was a crazy revolving parade as most of the groups actually overlapped each other, but we were also tremendously blessed by the things they brought in their suitcases, their encouraging presence in our home, and having the opportunity to experience their fresh perspective on Guinean culture.



*Richard brought his friend Pastor Dave and we had a great time together. Richard is a WAVS board member as well as heading up the drinking water filter factory, so we had a lot of meetings both here in Canchungo and around Bissau about the futures of both!*



*Cooking for 15 was a fun challenge and I was so glad to have my new stove!*



*Discussing a morning spent exploring Canchungo.*

## A Few Projects *by Jason*

In the shop, we've been prefabricating the trusses for the village elementary school roof project we mentioned in January. In late April we'll be on-site to install the roof! You can follow the action with pictures updated throughout the project at [www.facebook.com/hashtag/tchetcheschool](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/tchetcheschool) (no account required).



*The students painting another batch of grade school desks before we attached the tabletops, seats, and backs.*



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