



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam



March 2018

Investing In The Staff At The Vocational School by Emily

A few months ago I was thinking and praying about how to use my small amounts of free time here and there to be a blessing to the staff at the WAVS vocational school. Because of my work in the neighborhood, at our church, and mainly at home—taking care of the house and kids and homeschooling Savannah—I am not at the school very often. Three times a year I help with the planning and do some of the teaching for the school staff's training days. I love doing that. I wanted to have an opportunity to invest in the staff more regularly. I decided to see if anyone was interested in having an hour-long monthly get-together. I hoped to use the time to share snacks, some conversation, and to be encouraged by a speaker. Everyone thought it would be a great idea and we had our first one this month. I spoke about using the physical pattern of inhaling and exhaling as a constant reminder of how we receive from God to give to others (love, forgiveness, compassion, etc). We had a great time together and I'm already looking forward to next month.



Serving up the snacks.

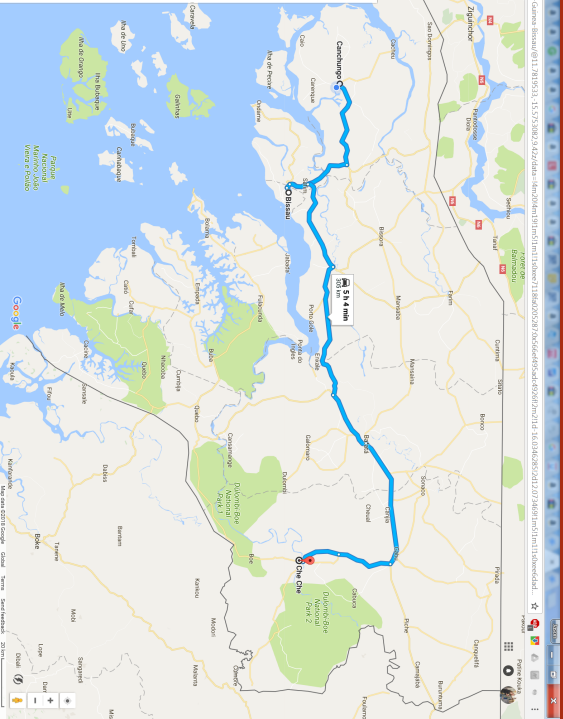


Hot Tin Roof by Jason

One of the things I like most about the work we do in Guinea-Bissau is the tangible way it makes a difference. Ahead of the incredible May heat, we cleared out a week in March to pack up equipment, material, and almost the entire Welding Department's staff and students to go to the eastern part of the country to roof a Christian school being built there. The school has been under construction for years, but most recently has been waiting for us to open up time for the long trip out to the remote village of Tche Tche (chay-chay) to roof it. We had fabricated the trusses (in halves) last year at our school, and had been looking for a good time to trek out there. The region is hot this time of year (highs around 105°F), so the work was hard, but I'm proud of how quickly our team was able to complete the project. Despite vehicle trouble both directions, we were only gone 7 days. The Indonesian missionary building the school, Ritha, is hopeful that they'll be able to finish the remaining construction to be ready to open by this fall!

Please pray with us for the school's success, that it would be helpful in teaching the kids of the region and also be a useful vehicle for carrying the Gospel into a largely unreached region of Guinea-Bissau. (Pics inside.)

Jason and the whole Welding Department staff and students headed to a remote village to roof the first Christian grade school.



Check inside this month's mega-newsletter for details and a picture of this truck crossing a river on a ferry! →

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Ministry update from
Jason & Emily Atkins'
family inside!



The Tche Tche roofing team.





The 190-mile trip was never dull. At one point, three of the four old back tires shredded. Our final river crossing into the village is by ferry. You have to pull yourself along the steel cable anchored to both banks.



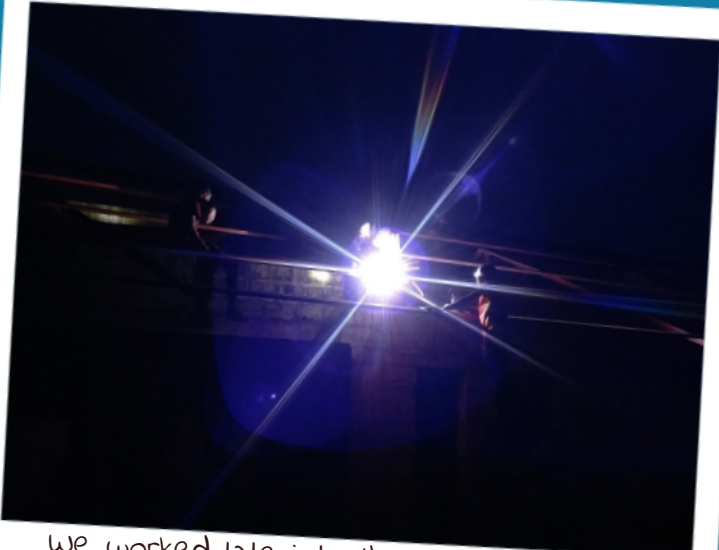
The school's truck was loaded down!
 150 - Metal roof panels ● 60 - 20' long 1½" x 3" purlin tubes ● 14 - Burglar bars for the school ● 10 - Full truss halves ● 10 - Cap truss halves
 5 - Doors for the school ● 3 - Sections of heavy scaffolding ● 2 - Welder/generators ● Lots of tools, sawhorses, and supplies



No crane? No problem...



Purlins being set. Almost ready for sheet metal.



We worked late into the (cooler) nights several days. The students were all anxious to get back to cell service!



The welding team was finishing the overhang supports just ahead of the roofing team!



Always satisfying to see the first couple of panels create some shade in the building!



Starting the ridge cap-almost there!