



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau with



November 2018

We're glad to have Emily
back home after
spending October with
her family in Little Rock!

Praying For The People I Love *by Emily*

One of my favorite things about walking with God for years and years is looking back at the changes God has made in my life and knowing that I'm not who I was. As a natural worrier about things I can't change, there have been some pretty big challenges in my life over the past four months, and I love seeing how God has enabled me to meet those challenges head-on.

Since August, when I found out about my mom's stage 3c ovarian cancer and the long treatment road ahead of her, I have been praying. In this praying process there have been days where I have been sad, days I have been overwhelmed, and days I have also been hopeful. The one thing that I have not been is worried. As I have prayed for my mom I have had the deepest sense that God is asking me to pray because He is making me part of how His hand is moving, calling me into the community of people that He is using on my mom's treatment journey. God has given me the ability to walk in peace, not because I have some kind of promise that my mom will be healed, but because I know that God will be with us through every step of this. He is at work, even in cancer, and I know that nothing with Him is wasted.



Sisters, and nieces, and nephews, oh my!

It has been hard to be far away from my family in the U.S. while my mom has been going through chemo and two surgeries. When I decided to come to the U.S. for a month to help after my mom's abdominal surgery I knew that being far away from my kids would be hard. When I arrived at my parents' house, after days of traveling, and found out how sick Miriam had gotten, being away was even harder. When she got even sicker and didn't respond to the first malaria treatment, you can believe that I was praying for my little girl, but again God kept me from worry.

We talk a lot in the church about the peace of God, and rightly so. Peace in the middle of a crisis where you can't physically help is not a natural, human thing. God's peace is a beautiful gift to me because when I am free from worry I can see how He is working in the hardest circumstances. Miriam recovered completely and my mom is bouncing back after surgery, getting ready to start chemo again before the doctors even expected that she would, and those are answers to prayer! But the biggest answer has just been the ability to live in the middle of these overwhelming things, without fear.



Emily's grandma Marie, sister Amanda, mother Linda, and sister Rachel.

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you
are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;*

*and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.*

*For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior"*

Isaiah 43:1-3

A Good Problem *by Jason*

This month I delivered more shelving to the drinking water filter factory. The workers have continued to persevere, moving steadily closer to enough fired filters which are data points for us to be able to finalize a "recipe" for the filters that will maximize the rate at which they filter water but also guarantee that every single one is effective at killing the bacteria in the drinking water that are making so many Guineans sick.



Look at all of those beautiful, locally-made, effective drinking water filters!

is to run it through a hammer mill (a modified garden chipper/shredder.) It is a slow process that doesn't yield a lot of the fine particles that we're looking for, to make nice small pores in the filter wall, allowing water but not bacteria through.

We hope for the day when we don't need many shelves to store finished filters because they're flying out the door and into the hands of families that need them as fast as we can make them – but in the meantime we need a safe place to store filters that represent months of hard work.

Of course, we continue excitedly anticipating the day when the filters are ready for sale to the public, but we still have groundwork to do before we reach that point. A project that takes many years to develop, like this one, can feel discouraging at times, but we continually remind ourselves of the importance of the project to the health of our beloved Guinea-Bissau and that often the hardest things are the ones most worth doing. Being here for a long time, consistently checking in and offering help, is one of the huge advantages that our lives as missionaries allow us – and we're thankful for your support that makes it possible.

This month we're also running a test to try to find a more effective way of grinding up the sawdust we buy from local carpentry shops. The current plan



Squaring up the shelf ends and welding the first shelves in place.



Nana and the kids man cannons to "repel pirates" at an old colonial fort we visited.

My Mom Visits! *by Jason*

It's been great to have my mom here for November. She's been a big help, taking over homeschooling the kids so I can work a normal schedule, reading lots of stories, and playing. We also got the opportunity to head out on mini adventures on the weekends, have fun, and make some memories with the kids. We'll miss Nana until we see her back in the U.S. for furlough!



To Give Online:

At 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.