



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau with



July 2019

We're glad to be back together in the US and look forward to seeing many of you!

## Pottery Wheel! *by Jason*

Earlier this year I was able to finish a machine that's making a big difference at the drinking water filter factory. I wrote about the beginning of the project last year, but after running into a few snags, am happy to announce that it's done, installed, and working great.

The drinking water filter factory makes effective, cheap, ceramic filters by pressing a slug of clay in a mold, which gives it its rough shape, cleaning it up, drying it, and then firing it in a kiln in batches of about 115. After the filters come out of the kiln, every single one is quality tested, and then the good ones are coated with an anti-microbial colloidal silver that penetrates the wall of the filter as an extra safeguard.



The "clean-up" phase, after the rough filters come out of the press, is necessary to have a smooth filter that won't have any jagged edges once it's fired, and to reduce the likelihood of cracking during firing. The original method for doing this clean-up was the back of a wet spoon, being run up and down the outside of the rough filter. That method did a bit to smooth the edges of the filter, but also left ridges in the side of the filter between spoon paths. The right tool for the job was a pottery wheel, but with none available in Guinea-Bissau, I made one.

The filters shown in the above picture are several of the first ones from the pottery wheel, next to one of the last ones done with the spoon. As you can see, the results are impressive, and the factory workers using the machine have only gotten better and better at using the pottery wheel since that initial experimentation!

*John Pierre on one of his first attempts at finishing a filter using the pottery wheel.*



*The upper right filter was one of the last to get the "back of the spoon" treatment. Even the first attempts at using the pottery wheel were a vast improvement—and they've only improved from there!*



*We cast the flywheel from concrete, poured around a center shaft to allow us to bolt it to the machine.*





*Left: The Huggins boy-cousins dominating the splash pad.*

*Below: Jason's brother and sister-in-law visited and celebrated Nathaniel's birthday with an awesome dinosaur carrot cake by Aunt Laura!*



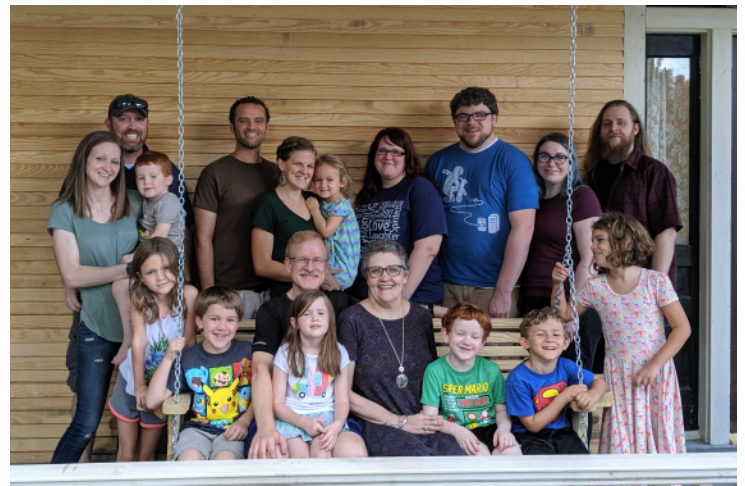
## Family *by Emily*

The best part of coming back to the U.S. isn't the playgrounds and splash pads or the apples and avocados or the paved roads and working stoplights or even the abundance of ice cream. Don't get me wrong, those things are amazing, but the best part of coming back to the U.S. is sitting right down next to people we have missed and spending time together.

This month, after I rejoined Jason and the kids, we had a few days with Jason's parents and then piled in the car and journeyed down to Little Rock to see my parents, siblings, and their families. I know that many of you have been praying for my mom over the last 11 months as she has battled cancer, and it was so great to see her with my own eyes again and feel her newly regrowing hair. Right now she is finished with the heavy hitting chemo infusions, surgery, and radiation, and her scans and bloodwork have declared her body cancer free. She has transitioned to a two year treatment regimen designed to reduce the risk of the cancer coming back. We are all full of praise at the way that each step of this whole process has gone and continuing to pray for healing and strength.



After Little Rock, we spent some time in Tulsa and then in Mahomet, IL before arriving back in Michigan to attend Simpson Park Camp. This month has been a whirlwind, but we have been grateful for every reunion along the way.



*Enjoying some corn on the cobb and a good tickle from Grandpa Atkins.*

*Emily's parents with all of their kids and grandkids.*



### 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.