



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

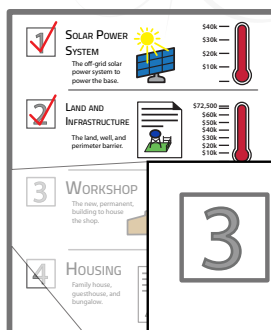
Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

April 2020

We planted mango trees
at the new base, it will be
fun to watch them grow!

Unloading *by Jason*

We were excited last month to receive our shipping container and get it onto the ground at the new base. Though the month has been interrupted by the virus' arrival in Guinea-Bissau, we've still been able to have a small team pour the slab in front of the container, build a steel ramp to connect the slab to the container, and get most of the material out of the container to organize by destination. We're thankful for all that arrived, and that there doesn't seem to have been major damage to anything en route. Material has been organized and delivered to my current shop, the WAVS vocational school, our house, and a missionary who runs a school in the southern part of the country. Still to go are things for Youth For Christ, our missionary partners in Quebo, and the drinking water filter factory's solar power system. The container is starting to empty and we're thankful for the impact all of this equipment, materials, and supplies will make around Guinea-Bissau. Many thanks to all who helped make it happen!

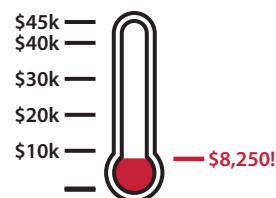


New Base Fundraising Progress

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WORKSHOP

The new, permanent,
building to house
the shop.



Loading up the
supplies sent by our
missionary friends in
southern Guinea-Bis-
sau.

The first 12 feet of the container were filled with 16,000 pounds of solar system batteries, several tons of metal-working machines, and, fortunately, a pair of pallet jacks and our geriatric electric forklift to help unload it all!

Workshop Fundraising Phase Kicks Off, 18% Complete! *by Jason*

We are unbelievably grateful for the completion of the second phase of the fundraising campaign to purchase the land, build the security wall around it, dig the well, install the solar pump, and build the water tower. Since the land purchase, we've been moving forward on these infrastructure and security aspects of the new base construction.

The next phase of the fundraising is to build the new workshop, and \$8,250 has already generously been given toward that \$45,000! We plan to begin clearing the land where the shop will sit soon, and hope to pour footings and foundation so that the heavy rains that are coming can help pack down the ground where the slab will eventually be poured, which will be disturbed by the clearing. Our hope is to complete the footings and foundation before the rainy season arrives, and then if money is available, begin the slab and then the rest of the building after the rains stop!

The fourth fundraising phase will be to build our family's house, a guest house, and a visitor's bungalow. We continue to be humbled by the outpouring of support and partnership through this process. Thank you so much!

First Steps *by Jason*

Though we're still waiting for the government to resume normal operations to issue our title and construction permits for the new land, we have been able to lay some important groundwork since last month!

Construction here is primarily masonry and steel, and masonry construction needs a lot of water! Before COVID-19's arrival, we'd already had a group of guys dig our well. It isn't finished and sealed yet, but after some great help choosing the spot from a geologist friend in California, the guys dug 27' and found good (not salty, thankfully) water—and it seems like plenty of it! We dropped a small solar well pump into it and have been setting a solar panel out each day to fill our 1,000 gallon water tank to facilitate early phases of construction.



This time of year is the lowest for the water table, and lots of wells go dry, but it's also a great time to have a well dug, because if it has water at this time of year, it should be stable the rest of the year as well. The pump has been pulling about 500 gallons a day out of the well, and has shown no signs of drawing down the water level, which is great news! The water tank is currently just sitting on the ground near where most of the work is happening, but soon we'll begin construction on our water tower and start trenching pipes around

the site. Even though the water system is still in a "good enough to get started" configuration, it's already been a big help to have access to water out there! Neighbors are already stopping by to take drinking water to their houses.

Another group of guys from our church have taken on the task of making cement cinder blocks for our security wall. We made one manual block form and borrowed another, and the guys have already made about 5,000 blocks! We'll use the compressed earth block machine to make blocks for our buildings, but for a security wall where strength isn't as important as weather-resistance, the cinder blocks are a good solution.

We also accomplished an important milestone in construction in Guinea-Bissau. Land disputes are a common issue, and ownership is established by two things: documentation and border markers. The first step to the short perimeter wall is pouring reinforced concrete pillars on the corners. We now have those up and the land cleared between them so that as soon as we get a construction permit for the wall, we'll be ready to start putting it up.



Cinder blocks were made on-site one at a time in a manual form, and loaded to spread around the perimeter for wall construction.



I trimmed these limbs from a tree called "blood wood" in Creole to open the road, doesn't the sap look like blood??



One of the land's corner pillars being poured. Boards are used as cement forms.



The well diggers using our chain fall to lower the concrete liners into the well to help reinforce and seal it.



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:
Hope Remembered / P.O. Box 5 / Fosters, AL 35463
with "Atkins" in the memo.