



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

August 2020

Check out the video
tour of our new land at
<https://bit.ly/3ghPcJr>

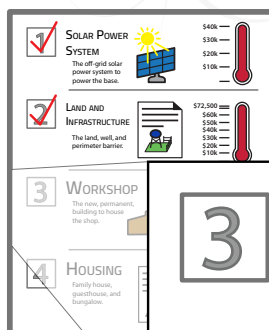
14 years by Emily

Sixteen years ago, at the ripe old age of 22, Jason (who was at that point my husband of 3 weeks) asked me a question that would change our lives. "What would you think about going to Africa to work with some friends of ours for 6 months or so?" As many of you know, I turned him down flat. But, a year later, it was actually me who brought up the idea again; and a year after that, 14 years ago last month, we stepped off a plane and our adventure in Guinea-Bissau began.

As we celebrated 14 years in Guinea-Bissau I couldn't help but think about how many times God has provided exactly what I needed, just when I needed it, in direct answer to my prayers for help.

Just a few of the highlights:

- In 2006 as a hesitant, inexperienced English teacher God gave me courage and a love for teaching that I could not explain.
- In 2008 I had struggled with learning Portuguese Creole for 2 years when I was given the assignment of leading daily staff devotions in Creole. But, as I spent time each day pouring over the Bible in Creole to prepare, the whole language fell into place over just a few months.
- In 2012 only God could have filled me with peace during three weeks of extreme tension after a military coup which eventually forced us to leave the country for several months.
- In 2015 Miriam was born with a rare thyroid disorder and it started to look like we might not be able to come back. Then, less than a month from the date on our return tickets she was completely healed and hasn't had a problem since.
- In 2016 I was overwhelmed trying to figure out how to start to homeschool my less-than-eager 5-year-old (with a barely sleeping infant and a 2-year-old underfoot), and an American who came to work with WAVS and also happened to be a kindergarten teacher moved into our house and gave me daily pointers until I got the hang of it.
- In 2017 when my kids got infested with lice my neighbor came over and spent hours helping me pick them out day after day.
- In 2018 when Jason's mom came over for 3 weeks to be with the kids and keep up with their schooling so that I could go to the U.S. and be with my mom after major surgery.
- And this past year when we knew it was time to purchase land and build a home for our family and ministry, God unexpectedly provided \$40,000 the very week that we announced the project and another \$95,000 over the next 8 months—completely funding the purchase of the land and the infrastructure (including an off grid solar power system, the well, and the perimeter wall), and more than half of what we will need to build the shop.

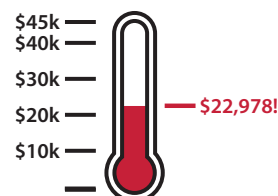


New Base Fundraising Progress

3

WORKSHOP

The new, permanent,
building to house
the shop.



Then and now!



14 years (cont'd) by Emily

In daily ways He has given me patience with the hard work of life here, Jason's unrelenting optimism and ability to fix or find a way to do without pretty much anything, the ability to be present with people that I love at the funerals of babies and friends who died too soon, the courage to dance with my women's choir in front of large groups of people, and words of hope and truth as I have had the opportunity to preach and teach the Bible.

As I look back I am grateful for every person He has brought alongside me here and all of our supporters in the U.S. who have generously given us the opportunity to stay here. God has made every day of the past 14 years possible, and I know that He will continue to do the impossible in the years ahead.

Keep It Going by Jason

It's difficult sometimes to convey how hard the beautiful environment of Guinea-Bissau is on infrastructure. The extreme humidity of the rainy season and sunny heat of the dry season wear things out quickly. Some of it is silly, like how all of our clothes lose their stretch after a couple of seasons, or how the beautiful maroon we painted our house faded to poop-brown because of the UV of the tropical sun.

I recently got a call from the drinking water filter factory explaining that the solar well pump system I installed a few years ago wasn't working. Obviously, water being both an ingredient in the filter-making process and needed for dunk testing finished filters meant it was important to fix quickly. After some troubleshooting, I found the culprit; wiring had corroded inside the underground conduit—which doesn't have any junctions underground! I still don't know how the moisture found its way into the conduit but can confirm that the locally available wire isn't as waterproof as the THWN wire you'd find at Home Depot! Wire replaced, pump working again.



After a major hydraulic overhaul of the compressed earth block making machine earlier this year, we were ready to put it to work

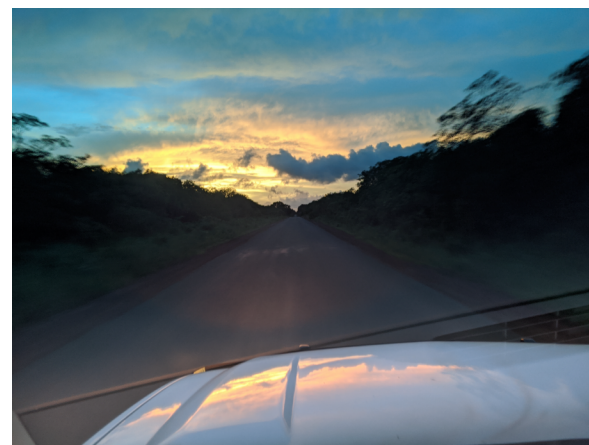
Wires don't work when they get crunchy and break!



at our new site. A few minutes after firing it up, we found a gushy hydraulic leak in a different cylinder than the one I had rebuilt. In this case, we had been well prepared by the donors who had sent the machine over, because they had also included an extensive spare parts kit which has come to the rescue many times, which included a whole new replacement cylinder. It had been stored inside a box in a closed shipping container for the last 10 years. I swapped the old cylinder for the new one (while perhaps internally patting myself on the back for being able to do the

swap and the donors for having thought ahead and including all of those spare parts). Ten minutes after firing the machine back up, the brand-new cylinder started spurting hydraulic fluid from the same spot as the old one! After unmounting it and opening it up, I discovered that the plastic seals on this previously-unused part had

deteriorated so badly that they crumbled when I touched them. Definitely weren't going to be able to hold back 3,000 psi of hydraulic power! Fortunately, I found replacement parts (for 9x the price we'd pay in the US) at the only shop that carries hydraulic supplies, in the capitol. They weren't an exact fit, but with a little additional work at my shop, went in just right and are now working perfectly. In this case, even having a backup part wasn't enough, haha! Sometimes, all you can do is smile and do your best!



Fortunately, the drive home after the day in Bissau at the factory featured a beautiful sunset!



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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.