



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

December 2020

Please pray for Jason's trip
back to Guinea-Bissau as
Emily and the kids stay with
her parents.

New Base Fundraising Progress

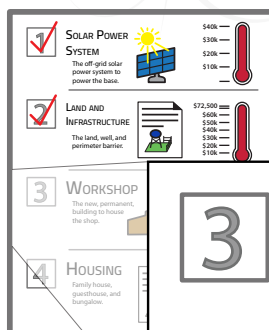
So Thankful *by Jason*

Today I was flipping through photos from this past year, and was struck by how thankful I am that we've been given the opportunity to embark on this new land construction project. There have been periods in our life in Guinea-Bissau that have felt like we've just put out fire after fire and not really moved forward. While 2020 has brought its own challenges to each of us, as I look back over what God has allowed to unfold this year, I'm amazed and thankful.

The small crew we had out at the construction project worked hard, and we're amazed at how far we have already come. Here are some highlights:

- Nailing down a purchase agreement with the family that owned the land.
- Clearing paths through thick vines, underbrush, trees, and 8' termite mounds to create roads so we could mark the property boundaries.
- Building (or overseeing) 1,150 feet of cinder-block security wall, enclosing the three non-river sides of the 3-acre site.
- Pouring feet for the shipping container to be set down on, an apron in front of it to move equipment and supplies around on, and a dock plate to bridge the gap.
- Overseeing the digging and sealing of a 32' deep well which is producing enough totally clean drinking water to meet all of our needs and still plenty of extra for the community to come and take water for their families.
- Trenching and running electrical conduit and water pipe to almost every location where buildings will be built.
- Planting fruit trees.
- Clearing the cashew orchard off of the spot where the shop will be built.
- Pouring the foundation for a construction storage/garage building.

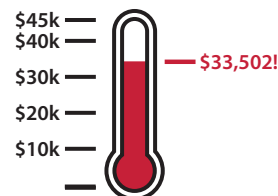
All of this work was accomplished with no major injuries! We praise God for all of you who have been a part of this project. Though we recognize the monumental amount of work that still lies ahead of us, we have laid the groundwork for security, water, and electricity.



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WORKSHOP

The new, permanent,
building to house
the shop.



June: Pouring the apron to
protect the well from surface
water infiltration.

August: Forming columns for
a doorway in the perimeter
wall.



January Plans *by Emily*

After much prayer, we have decided that the kids and I are going to stay in the U.S. for at least the next few months. We are currently in Michigan. The second week in January Jason will fly back to Guinea-Bissau for a 7-week trip, and the kids and I will drive down to my parents' house in Arkansas, where Jason will meet us when he flies back March 1st. The kids and I are sad that we are not going back home to Guinea-Bissau but deeply grateful to have some extra time with my parents and to be able to help my mom.

A Quick Solo Trip *by Jason*

As we've made the tough decision for the family to remain in the U.S. for the near future, I (Jason) plan to fly back over to Guinea-Bissau from January 11th to March 1st. The decision to make a solo trip was a difficult one, but now that we don't know exactly when we'll be able to return all together, there are a few things that need to be accomplished in the meantime. By returning now, I hope to be able to close out a couple of existing projects and set up the next several months of work for our guys to continue after I leave.

The list of tasks I'd like to hit during the six weeks there is probably more than I can do in three months, but there are a few high-priority items on the agenda.

The perimeter wall around the new land is holding firm, but has several openings where doors and gates need to be, but aren't made yet. We'd like to get the whole place closeable and lockable to secure it (from potential theft, but also from animals that have eaten some of our seedling fruit trees!)

The 1,000 gallon water tank that will gravity-feed the water to supply the project is currently connected, but sitting on the ground on a high spot outside of our wall. Cows and pigs graze in that cashew orchard, so we need to build the water tower we had planned, to secure the tank and its connections from bored kids and rooting animals.

The drinking water filter factory project has a new in-country director, so I'll be working with him to orient his work for the next few months. We're also hoping to begin construction on a new building at the factory site, which will be the filter final treatment and packaging building.

The trip will be a busy sprint to get as much done as I can, but we're thankful for the opportunity to be able to do it!



A few more pictures from 2020 base construction!

July (left): Pouring the garage/construction storage building's foundation.

July (below): Truing up rebar frames which will reinforce concrete columns.



June (left): One of the many trenches our hard working guys hand-dug to protect water pipe, electrical conduit, and compressed air lines.



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