



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

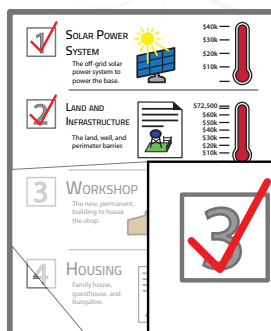
January 2021

Thank you! New machines
and another milestone
reached in the construction
project fundraising!

New Base Fundraising Progress



A giant thanks to Rite Tool!



WORKSHOP

The new, permanent,
building to house
the shop.



— \$45,000!

Heaviest Christmas Presents Ever! by Jason

Christmas brought an exciting arrival! For years, I've been watching at auctions for a specific kind of new equipment for the shop, but they've always been quite expensive, even used. One of the most-used tools in our machine shop is the lathe. It gets used several times every week for creating new parts and repairing old ones for the community. The machine I've been watching for is a hybrid lathe that can also be operated under computer control. The benefits of a machine like that are many, including being able to make many copies of the same part, cutting complex curves, and being able to cut any kind of thread—while the current manual lathe is limited to threads for which it has gears.



The vertical machining center (left) and CNC lathe (right) safely unloaded at their home for the next year or two.

In late December, I found an ad on Craigslist for one of these machines, and sent a shot in the dark message saying, "I'm sure that machine is worth what you're asking, but I don't suppose you'd consider donating it to go to our work in West Africa?" and explained what we do. To my surprise, Steve Berger of Rite Tool in Sterling Heights, MI wrote back and said that he'd consider it! A couple of days and a few messages later, he invited me to drive down to see it and offered it to me! As I was leaving, he pointed across the shop to another machine and said, "I'm replacing that machining center, do you have any use for that?" Yes, indeed!

What an amazing miracle and incredible generosity! However, with no shipping container going over right away, the second issue of how to move and safely store these 3,000 and 6,500 pound beasts needed to be addressed. Fortunately, Terry and Sherry Moore at Legacy Metal stepped in and offered to pay to have them moved into their shop, to fix a problem that was later discovered in the machining center, and to store and run them in the meantime.



The riggers did a great job moving the sensitive yet massive beasts!

Heaviest Christmas Presents Ever! (cont'd) *by Jason*

Working in Guinea-Bissau has taught me a great deal of patience. Two-day shipping isn't our norm, but even I'm going to have a hard time waiting a year or two for us to be ready to send another shipping container where they can catch a ride!

The workhorse manual lathe that's already in the shop will continue to be used a great deal when more power is needed, but once this new machine arrives, it will be a great compliment for the occasions where more precision or complexity is required. Now, to build the new workshop so these machines will have a home to go in!

Amazing Fundraising Progress *by Emily*

In September 2019 it became apparent that the time was right to begin a project that God had been laying on our hearts for years—building a permanent home for our family and ministry in Guinea-Bissau. I was incredibly intimidated by the scope of the project and knew that hundreds of people would need to come together to get it done. We divided the project into four phases, told people about it, and have spent the past year being absolutely blown away by God's provision and timing.

The first fundraising phase was \$40,000 to purchase an off grid solar power system capable of running the shop and all of the other buildings, and ship it over. That money was given the very first month (September 2019)!!! We did get the system (and lots of other needed materials for 6 different ministries working in Guinea-Bissau) sent over in a shipping container in late 2019.

The second phase was \$72,500 for land (including taxes) and infrastructure. The infrastructure work included clearing roads out to the land and around it. Next was setting up water, including digging and sealing a well and building and installing a water tower. And finally, forming all of the blocks onsite and building a cinder block perimeter wall—for security, to keep out neighborhood cows and goats, and to mark the property line (which is the legal responsibility of the purchaser). Once again, we were amazed at God's provision as all of the money for phase two came in over the next four months (November 2019 to February 2020)!!! We have been working steadily on this construction since February and Jason is hoping to finish the last parts (building and installing both the gates in the wall and the water tower) while he's in Guinea-Bissau this month.

The third phase was \$45,000 to build the workshop. Even in the middle of all of the challenges and uncertainty of 2020, God led families and churches across the U.S. to partner with us, and we finished 2020 with the funding for the shop construction complete!!! We can't wait to start construction when our family returns to Guinea-Bissau.

The fourth and final phase is \$72,500 to build a house for our family, a guest bunkhouse, and several 300ft² bungalows. Even though we are only days into 2021, we have already received \$6,000 toward phase 4 construction!! We have big dreams for using these spaces to host neighborhood Bible studies and get togethers, short term teams from the U.S., group or solitary retreats for fellow missionaries, and even to rent out as a revenue stream to support the maintenance of the project.

Thank you for praying with us, rejoicing with us, and supporting this project!



This riverside spot will be the site of one of the guest bungalows. We love visitors, so if you need a peaceful break, start planning your trip!



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.