



The Atkins Family

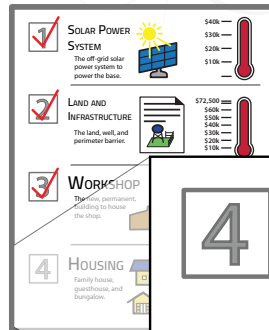
Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

Aug / Sept 2021

We arrived in Guinea-Bissau
on September 14th and are
settling back in to life in
Canchungo!

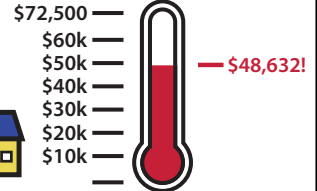
New Base Fundraising Progress



4

HOUSING

Family house,
guesthouse, and
bungalow.

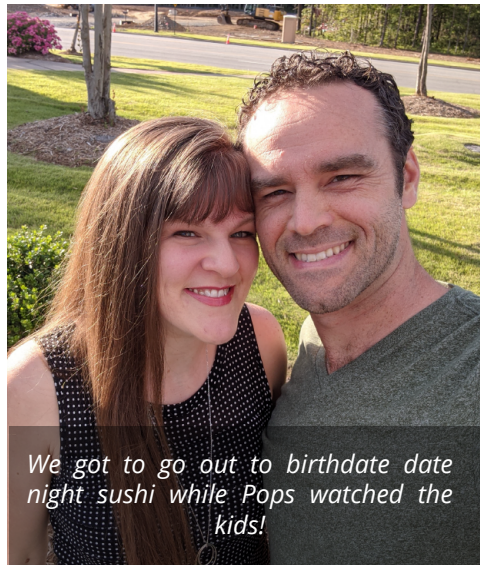


Transition by Jason

Though I had been travelling back and forth between the U.S. and Guinea-Bissau this past year, Emily and the kids had been in the U.S. since last October. They each had things they were looking forward to about being back home in G-B, and things they are going to miss about being in the U.S. We're grateful for the opportunities that the past year held, especially spending more time with family, including Emily's mom. We returned to Canchungo on September 14th. As we remember the joys and struggles of the last year in the U.S. (the longest Emily and the kids had been there since we originally left 15 years ago), please pray with us for the bittersweet transition back to life in Africa.



Savannah and Nathaniel loved knee boarding at the beach in South Carolina!



We got to go out to birthdate date night sushi while Pops watched the kids!



Great fun having stone skipping lesson with Pops at the reservoir.



The kids all enjoyed bundling up and making Christmas cookies with Nana.



Christmas in Michigan is the best!

Looking Forward *by Jason*

While, of course, I'll also miss a great many things from the U.S., I've been chomping at the bit to get back to work in Guinea-Bissau! Our rough plan has us returning to the U.S. next summer for some speaking engagements, visits, and likely packing a shipping container. That timeline means that we have about 9 months in Canchungo to make the fur fly. The list of possible projects to tackle seems endless, but exciting. Alongside the inevitable community repair projects that will pop up, we have construction to continue on the new base, installation of a solar power system at the drinking water filter factory, and the roof of a big discipleship school in the capitol.

At our base, the rains will soon tail off and allow the foundation we began pouring for the shop to continue. Our hope is that by next summer we will have finished the shop foundation, poured the slab, and begun laying block for the walls. In total, the shop will require something like 30,000 blocks to be formed and laid.

We will also begin construction on our house! We are so incredibly thankful for the amazing outpouring of support that has kept finances from being the limiting factor in the construction timeline!

Come Visit! *by Jason*

Though they had to carefully work between rains, our little crew was able to measure, dig, and pour the footing for the first guest bungalow while I was away in July! This is exciting not only because of the beginning of a building we hope will host some of you and be a source of deep rest for our fellow missionaries in Guinea-Bissau, but also because the team was able to do it without me here!

Our guys have far more expertise than I in many of the parts of construction (I never knew how to tear down a 7'-tall termite mound, for example!), but laying out and squaring up a building before digging wasn't one of the specialties our non-tradesmen workers possessed. The fact that they were able to take my drawing, and with a lot of voice messages and photos going back and forth, get the dimensions onto the ground, and use the laser level to determine depths to dig is a great encouragement! It shows a level of communication and capability that we haven't had in the past, and it's a great blessing that we don't take for granted!



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