



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,  
West Africa

October 2021

The rainy season is drawing to a close, and we're ready for some cooler weather in a few months!

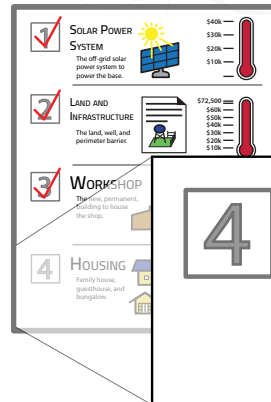
## A New Sister *by Emily*

This past Sunday afternoon a group of women from our church went to visit a woman who had come to church that morning and given her life to Christ. She lives on the other side of Canchungo in a much less developed area. As we walked on the winding path through houses, cashew orchards, and peanut fields, one of my friends started laughing and said, "Emily if the people in America could see you now, picking your way along a muddy trail in the middle of nowhere with a group of African women, would they think you are crazy or what?" I laughed and then she said, "It does my heart good to see you here with us because it makes me realize that if you can do this, we can do hard things for the sake of Christ too."



*The Women's Group had a great visit!*

When she said that I could not help laughing out loud! What she meant for a compliment was so humbling. She was so right in acknowledging that what was totally normal for her, walking long distances through undeveloped areas in Guinea-Bissau to share the gospel, was hard for me, and I've had to learn how to do it from them. I told her that seeking to follow Jesus along with this group of women - going out on Saturday afternoons to share the gospel with our friends and neighbors, visiting sick people in the hospital and praying over them, sitting alongside them at the houses of people who have lost loved ones, fasting and praying together for our families - has challenged and shaped me more than I could ever express. I'm so grateful for the chance to grow in Christ and learn to use my gifts for His glory along with these sisters!

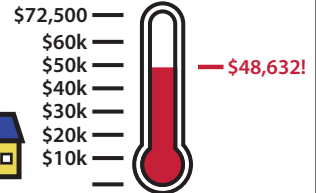


## New Base Fundraising Progress

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### HOUSING

Family house, guesthouse, and bungalow.



## Mice, Mildew, and Boxes *by Jason*

It's not always possible, but we try not to schedule too much for the first week when we get back to Guinea-Bissau because of the inevitable attention that the house, shop, and truck will need after us being away. Our first two weeks included an incredible amount of work for Emily, washing all of our clothes and bedding which were mildewy from the rainy season humidity, cleaning the house out from top to bottom (including chasing a few mice away), sorting all of the clothes the kids had outgrown, reorganizing our toys that visiting kids had shoved into disorganized piles, and preparing the books for the kids' school year. (cont'd)



## Mice, Mildew, and Boxes *by Jason (cont'd)*

I had a nice list of projects waiting as well, including fixing our laundry line pulley which had seized in the rain, both front door pulls on the truck having broken, a plastic piece needed to put the truck in gear having disintegrated, and making a few popular DIY mouse traps from Youtube to help clear them out of the house. Along with these, the material we and WAVS had sent together in a shipping container in late 2020 arrived and needed to be inventoried, sorted, and stored before classes at the vocational school started in a few weeks.

It was a lot of work getting settled back in, but we're thankful that mildew on the clothes means we have things to wear, broken truck parts mean we have a vehicle we can use for work and getting around, and the supplies that came in the container will be a big help with the construction at the new base! We're blessed! We've also been taking advantage of the cool river water to help with getting used to the heat and humidity again!



*The tasks waiting for us when we returned were significant, but we're glad to be back and diving in!*

## Starting The House *by Jason*

There was some work that couldn't wait when we got back, however. Though we never know the date precisely, we arrived with a few weeks of rainy season left. The clay ground at our base is really hard for our guys to dig through by hand once it dries out and cracks, so we wanted to take advantage of the final rains keeping the ground soft to make the digging for the house foundation easier.



*After lining out the foundation on the ground, our hard-working crew got right to work digging!*

I did the line-out for the foundation and a dedicated group of four guys got to work with regular shovels, machetes, short-handled duck-bill shovels, and a digging bar to dig through the clay, gravel, tree roots, rock, and the subterranean cavities left behind by a termite mound they'd knocked down last year. They put some serious sweat into the process, but in the end did a great job digging the foundation. We were fortunate that (as I had hoped) digging a few feet deeper in several spots than we absolutely had to, we were able to get down to rock all the way around, so the house should be on a very stable spot. I like to joke that if Christians don't do anything else right about construction, building a strong foundation is Biblical.

Of course, this is only the very beginning of the house, and a building we can stand in with a roof over our heads is a long way away, but it's still amazingly fun to be able to look around at the different rooms and imagine what it will be like to live there. Thank you again to all of you who have given to make this project possible.



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