



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

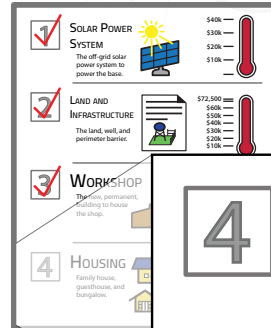
November 2021

Praise God with us for construction progress and closing in on the last \$22,000 of the \$230,000 construction fundraising campaign!!

New Base Fundraising Progress

House Foundation *by Jason*

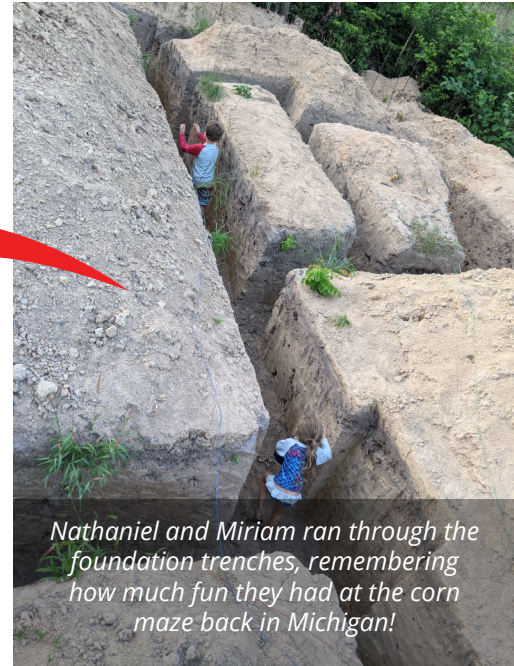
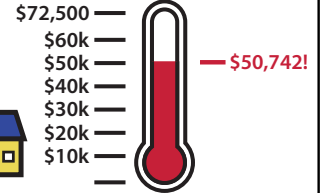
Last month we included a picture of the first few shovels of dirt being dug for our house's foundation. Check this out! The house's foundation has been dug, and is looking great! There is a little more leveling to be done in the trenches, and then a bunch of rebar cages to be formed, but then we'll be ready to pour the first level of concrete for the foundation!



4

HOUSING

Family house,
guesthouse, and
bungalow.



Nathaniel and Miriam ran through the foundation trenches, remembering how much fun they had at the corn maze back in Michigan!

Yes! *by Emily*

Teaching from the Bible is my favorite thing. From preaching to our whole congregation on Sunday morning, to leading several women's discipleship group sessions, to preaching at an all-day prayer conference, to speaking to a mixed group of kids and adults at a family retreat, God has certainly given me lots of different opportunities to preach and teach just since we got back to Guinea-Bissau in October. He always gives me so much joy as I study and prepare, and He faithfully works in the lives of the people who listen. Every time I get the chance to share I love to say yes and then watch the Lord work.



Machine Doctoring *by Jason*

The compressed earth block machine that was donated a decade ago has had periods of more and less work, but after making the blocks for the garage / storage building earlier this year, and anticipating the 50,000+ blocks that will be required over the next few years of construction, I realized the machine needed some TLC in order to be ready for what's ahead.

The machine has its strengths and weaknesses, but has been plagued almost since the beginning by electrical issues. Hoping to move past these issues once and for all, I spent some significant time replacing the parts of the system that supply electricity to the computer and valves that run the machine.



Thankful for a well-stocked shop to be able to address maintenance needs as they arise!

After years of compressing clay dirt, the chamber that does the pressing had also become quite worn and was making blocks with rounded, chipped-out corners rather than the nice square corners we were accustomed to seeing in the beginning. Fortunately, I know a good machine shop! I did the test fix to the worst pair of corners, and we're now seeing good edges on those corners. Now that we know the fix worked and is proving durable, next time I have the machine apart I can also fix the other two.



Above I milled a pocket for a replacement for the worn corner in the plate that presses the dirt into a block. Voila!



The small diesel motor that runs the machine was also getting weak, so a friend of ours who is my

go-to small engine guy replaced the injector and piston rings, cleaned it all up, and it is working much more reliably now!

Though we're still running into small issues every few days, the five-guy crew has made about 4,000 blocks over the last two weeks! I'm hopeful that we can get the remaining kinks ironed out so that the block crew can hum along as I work with another crew on the next stages of the buildings we have in progress.



Nathaniel just had to climb down into one of the spots we're mining clay dirt for making the blocks.



Blocks are piling up! The team has produced more than 4,000 in the last couple of weeks! (They're 6" x 12" and 4" tall, for scale.)



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.