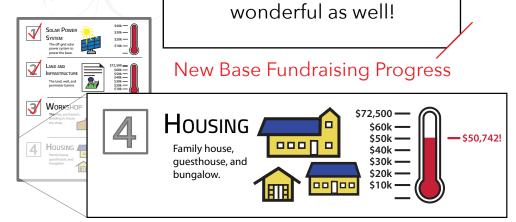


# The Atkins Family Jason, Emily, Savannah, Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa We enjoyed a happy and warm Christmas together, and hope your holidays were



## Home Again by Emily

For all three of our kids, Guinea-Bissau has always felt more like home than the U.S. has. Here in Guinea-Bissau Jason leaves for work every morning, the kids have friends, chores, and school, we go to the same church every Sunday-life is pretty normal. In the U.S. we travel around, visit lots of people, the kids get

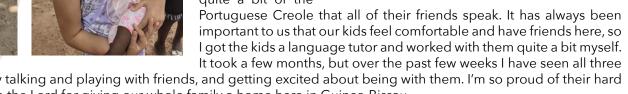
spoiled by their precious grandparents, they don't have school, and while Jason is working, he doesn't leave a lot. The 11 months that the kids and I spent in the U.S. in 2020 and 2021 changed a lot of that. Strangely, we were in the U.S., but staying in one place, with school every day, and Jason traveling quite a bit for work. It began to feel normal too.





For the first time in their lives coming back here didn't like auite feel coming back to normal life, especially for Nathaniel and Miriam who had forgotten quite a bit of the

of them comfortably talking and playing with friends, and getting excited about being with them. I'm so proud of their hard work, and grateful to the Lord for giving our whole family a home here in Guinea-Bissau.



### Green Resources by Jason

Several aspects of the construction have advanced to the point that our electrical needs are outgrowing the small solar power system that I installed on the roof of the container back at the beginning, just after purchasing the land. We're thankful, though, that the solution is already at hand! What a gift to be well-equipped.

In early 2020, laying groundwork for the small amount of electricity we would need the first year of the project, I installed a very small portion of the solar power system that will eventually power the whole base (including the shop) on top of the shipping container roof. That 1 kilowatt of panels has been providing all we need to run a few power tools, charge cell phones, run security lights, and pump all of the water that we need for construction and watering plants, (cont'd)



This 1,000 watts of solar power has been powering construction since the beginning.

#### Green Resources by Jason

... as well as the impressive amount the community comes to take for drinking water. It's amazing that we've gotten so much construction done in a place with no power grid without ever needing a generator!

Last month, as I looked forward to the next phase of construction, it became clear that the electrical system needed to morph into its next phase as well. Electricity had been available at only a few points around the base; only the well pump and a

couple of outlets. We're now expanding the system to provide electricity (if not in its finished form yet) at the clay mine, the garage, our house, and the first guest bungalow. Now as we need to vibrate concrete pours, weld roofs, and run lighting, we'll have the power handy. This also gives us some flexibility in case the old gas motors running some of the other equipment we use, such as the ancient cement mixer, give up the ghost. We'd have the electricity handy to convert them to electric motors moving forward.

Having electricity in more places is great as long as there's enough of it, but we've also recently been using most of the power those 1,000 watts of solar panels provide. With new tools using electricity, we also need to harvest more power. Fortunately, the shipping container roof had space to triple the number of solar panels, so we filled it and are now up to 3,000 watts! This approximately 15 kilowatt hours a day should be enough to allow us to do everything we need to until the shop is built and the full solar system (five times bigger!) can be installed on its roof.

We're acutely aware of how blessed we are to have the resources at the ready to be able to make a jump like this. We thank each of you for the part you've played in helping us get this far! It's such a huge encouragement to our family.

Top: The installation of the new panels required attaching aluminum panel mounting rails to the roof trusses from underneath the cement-fiber roofing, then fastening the panels to them after carefully lifting up and placing them.

Bottom: The eight newly-installed solar panels are all wired up and producing power! This shot fills me with hope at all of the progress being made. On the left of the shot in the background is our house foundation!







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