

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

West Africa

WORKSHOP

A Housing

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,

June / July 2022

We're thankful for the opportunity to see many of you during our time in the U.S.!

## New Base Fundraising Progress

30000

## Church Ladies Pt. 2 by Emily

Besides cooking huge pots of rice and toppings for church events, church ladies here in Guinea-Bissau also dance. At any big church occasion – weddings, baptisms, holiday services, etc – you will find a group of women in matching dresses, performing for the crowd. These choirs sing, stomp, and dance their

hearts out in synchronized rhythm, usually with a call and response format.

The songs performed are almost always in the various tribal languages of Guinea-Bissau, which I do not speak. However, over the past 8 years in Canchungo, I have been part of the choir, dancing and singing with all of my friends. They are so gracious to me during the rehearsals, patiently saying the words slowly so that I can write them phonetically and then

explaining the meanings, and then letting me record them dancing so I can practice with them and at home until I've got all of the steps and gestures just right.

Singing and dancing on stage is way out of my comfort zone! But, literally jumping in with both feet and being teachable has been such a rich experience of "doing life" alongside these church ladies that I love and admire.

HOUSING

Family house,

bungalow.

guesthouse, and



\$72,500 ·

\$60k

\$50k

\$40k

\$30k

\$20k

\$10k

- \$69,852!



#### We Have A Floor! by Jason

Just before leaving, we were able to make an important step in the construction. We poured the floor of the first housing on the base! The 290ft<sup>2</sup> first guest bungalow, right down by the river, now has a floor and is ready to have its walls built. Although the size is tiny compared to other buildings, it's the biggest floor that my team has poured to date, and we continue to improve. Given the equipment we had available, it came out great.

The fall of the land toward the river required either grading the area around it or pouring a small stem wall around the back (uphill) side of the building.



Welding the interlocking metal panels to form the concrete pours.

Since we didn't want to disturb the natural beauty of the land, we opted for the stem wall. We have many more vertical poured walls to cast in the other buildings and septic tanks, so we took the opportunity to build a metal form system in the shop.



The simple bungalows will be a comfortable spot to enjoy the beautiful river!



## We Have A Floor! (cont'd) by Jason

(...) Usually this kind of work would be formed using wood, but the wood we have available is either expensive or fragile. The interlocking panels we made out of steel should long outlast the construction of the base.

We have great hope for the guest housing at the base. This bungalow is the first of several spaces that we hope will provide a quiet, calm place for tired Christian workers in Guinea-Bissau to be able to rest and listen to God. Will you please continue to pray with us as we're building this space that God will continue to protect the quiet beauty of this place and be preparing the people He has to stay there? We would also love to have any of you over for a visit, it's a gorgeous spot!



Pouring the floor of the very first residence on the base!







The guys vibrating the concrete to remove air bubbles.

#### This (minus the pile of blocks) will be the view of the river that our guests wake up seeing out the front door. Isn't it beautiful?

## Desks, Desks, and More Desks! by Jason

Amid the hustle and bustle of finishing the things that needed to be done in order for us to leave Guinea-Bissau, our partners in the southern part of the country needed more desks for their grade school. Fortunately, although I didn't have time to do much with them personally, we now have a good drawing, jigs, and a smooth process for producing the desks. So, in a big victory for the shop's ability to get important work done even without me, a small group of welding program grads and former teachers tackled the task of making 38 more 2-person desks with minimal help from me. They did an awesome job, and the desk frames are now painted and ready to go to southern Guinea-Bissau where they'll have their wooden seat, back, and tabletop surfaces installed. We had hoped to be able to handle the wooden components in Canchungo as well, but our hardwood supply is much spottier, where the wood is plentiful and relatively cheap in the southern and eastern parts of the country.





#### 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.