



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,  
West Africa

August 2022

Celebrate with us!  
The construction is  
fully funded!

## Funding Complete! *by Jason*

We are over the moon to be able to share the news that the new base project funding is complete! We praise God for his faithfulness and want to thank each of you who were part of it from the bottom of our hearts. Your support, interest, and dedication to this huge project are a giant encouragement to us. The funding for all four phases of the project is complete, and lack of funding has never caused us to have to slow down the construction. Please accept our heart-felt gratitude. We understand what a blessing this is in the missionary/non-profit world and certainly don't take it for granted. As we continue construction we will continue to strive to be wise stewards of these resources! Remembering back to the conversation in 2019 when Emily and I realized God was calling us to this project, a lot has happened in the meantime!

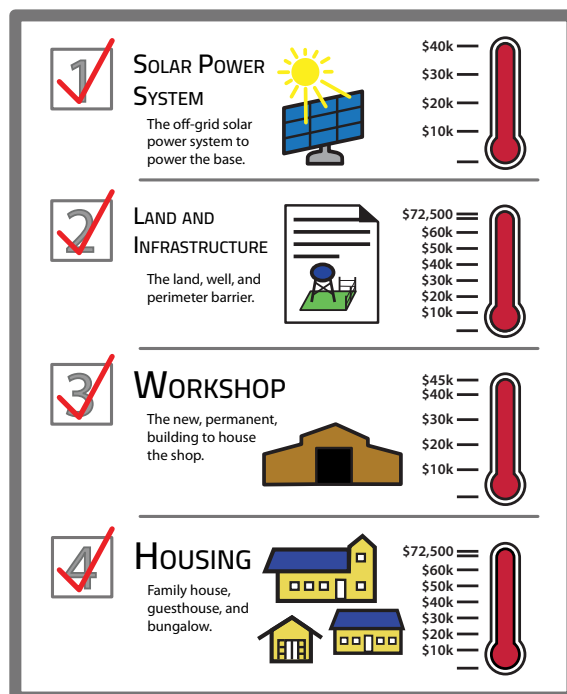
The first phase of the project was the off-grid solar power system that would power the new base, including the shop and housing. After a miraculous start to the fundraising in the form of a \$40,000 donation from Healdsburg Community Church, that system was purchased in late 2019 and shipped to Guinea-Bissau where it waits patiently in storage for the workshop to be built so that it can be installed. A small portion of it has been temporarily mounted on the shipping container roof since 2020 and supplies electricity for construction and community drinking water pumping.

The second phase was the purchase of the land, its security wall, the well, water tower, and conduit around the base. The land was purchased in early 2020 and we immediately began building the block wall around the perimeter and commissioned the digging of the well. We have also trenched to the locations around the base where buildings will be built for water and power to eventually flow. In mid 2020 we began giving drinking water to the community, around 75,000 gallons the first year. Early 2021 saw the construction of our water tower, which now provides good water pressure throughout the base. (cont'd)

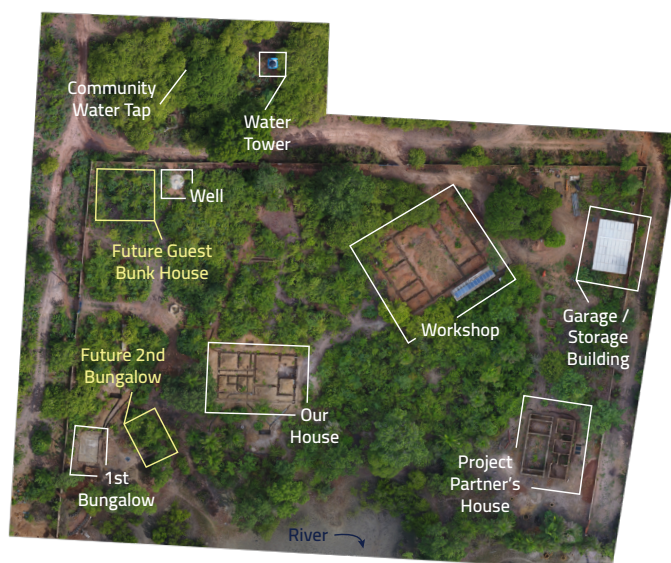


*Left: Our construction storage building / future garage is done enough to be a dry storage space during the current rainy season!*

## New Base Fundraising Progress



*We are overjoyed (and relieved) to announce that the God-sized funding need for the new base construction has been met! Please join us in giving thanks for God's provision through the hands of His people!*



## Funding Complete! (cont'd) *by Jason*

[...] The third phase was the construction of the 5,000ft<sup>2</sup> workshop. In mid 2021 we poured the footings for the foundation of the new workshop building. Construction will resume when we return in late 2022.

The fourth and final phase was for our family house and the guest housing. Digging for the foundation of our house began in late 2021, with the footings being poured in the first half of 2022. Construction of the house will resume in parallel with workshop construction in late 2022.

The first guest bungalow's floor was poured in mid 2022, with the first blocks laid for its walls shortly after and then paused when the rainy season began.

We have several years ahead of us before we reach the end of the principal construction. We're glad to have the funding in hand and for the progress that has been made already. We're looking forward to the way the journey and final product will be used to help build God's kingdom in Guinea-Bissau!



*The footings for our family house are poured and we're excited to continue work on it when we return in November!*

## Collecting For Another Shipping Container *by Jason*

It has been great being back in the U.S. for a couple of months! So far we've been east of the Mississippi, but we leave for a trip to California soon. We've enjoyed seeing lots of territory and spending time with those of you we've seen already.

We plan to send a shipping container to Guinea-Bissau just before we fly back in the beginning of November, and hope to include supplies for several partner ministries as well as building materials, shop equipment, and furnishings for the housing being built at the new base. While we've been on the road, I've been busy collecting supplies and equipment. As always, we

want to make the most of the space we'll have available in the container, and want to be wise with funds that have been donated so I've been watching auctions and classified listings for equipment and construction supplies. It's early in the process, but I've already scored some great deals on boring but necessary things like electrical wire, as well as exciting things like a new-to-us 1960's era wood planer that will be used to make many of the doors at the new base and the wooden parts of the elementary school desks the shop makes!

Please pray for wisdom and endurance in our remaining two months in the U.S. There are many decisions left, many things that need to be identified, ordered, and packed, and a limited amount of time in which to do them. Please also join us in praying for the logistics of the process. We already know there have been some new taxes added to the import process in Guinea-Bissau and are also having trouble securing a freight quote for the container shipping. Global shipping has been less stable in the last few years. In the meantime, we can't wait to collect all of the things we need to put into the container until the last minute, so we're operating on faith that the freight companies will eventually be able to get their ducks in a row and find a route for the container to travel.



*This 1960's era wood planer will be one of the main machines in our fledgling carpentry shop which will build many of the wooden things needed for our construction as well as the wooden parts of the gradeschool desks we make in the shop!*



*I just finished a little project using a homemade rig and a drill to respool approximately 160,000 feet of welding wire from bulk 1000 pound bins (bought cheaply at auction) onto the individual rolls our welders use. I'm glad both to have lots of welding wire for the shop and also to be done with that project!*



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