



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

January 2023

We were excited to receive a short term team from Simpson Park Camp this month!

"Normal" Family Life *by Emily*

The two weeks from January 16th to the 30th were incredibly unique and somehow totally normal at the same time. In those 15 days I preached 4 times, attended 8 different church services or events, visited women throughout my neighborhood to invite them to a church women's conference next month, cooked for 15 people in my home 6 times and cooked for 32 people over a camp fire at our project land once, spent 2 days in the capital with our whole family and 10 guests, did a week and half of school with the kids, took part in unloading a 40 foot long shipping container full of construction supplies and equipment for us and two other ministries, and you know, the other normal stuff like keeping the house clean and kids healthy and my garden watered and cooking the other meals when it was just the five us, haha.



Beef tagine for 32 over a campfire!

It's not every day (or even every year) that we receive a shipping container, I almost never go to the capital, and having 10 guests from the US working alongside our crew at the project land everyday was a first. In truth, I'm not sure what a "normal month" looks like, but if it involves feeding people, taking care of my family, and preaching the word of God, I'm in!



Simpson Park Team Trip *by Jason*

This month we were thrilled to host the first short-term missions trip from Simpson Park Camp to Guinea-Bissau! Simpson Park has been a connecting point for us over the years to many friends, everyone coming back each summer for the week to see each other and focus on God. (It's also an amazing link to those that have gone before us— Christians have been gathering there every summer since 1865, over 150 years!) Simpson Park has been part of the work in Guinea-Bissau since before us, as the missionaries who started Youth For Christ's work in Guinea-Bissau and invited us over are also camp members.



The fresh coat of paint on our gates looks great!

We were excited to receive the team of 10, show them around the country/culture we love, and put them to work! During their time here, the team got to participate in a (cont'd)



Pouring the bungalow bond beam!

Simpson Park Team Trip (cont'd) *by Jason*

(...) party/feast with our workers, attend several church services, enjoy the beautiful nature and sunrises, tour Bissau for a day, make cinder blocks and compressed earthblocks, pour a bond beam to cap the bungalow, pour a septic tank for our house, begin construction of a raised bed garden for Emily, do some woodworking, refresh the paint on our gates, mix concrete, and much more!



Pastor Mel straightening rebar with brute strength!

It was a joy to have them here and be able to show them around, and the guys at the site enjoyed working alongside them even though there were a lot of hand gestures because there was no common language! It was a great experience, and we praise God for keeping everyone safe throughout their trip. Thank you to all whose support allowed the trip to happen, it was a great encouragement to us!



The team mixed and poured several concrete projects!



Enjoying Emily's beef tagine all together!



They also made several batches of compressed adobe and cinder blocks!



Pictures can hardly do our sunrises justice!



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