



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

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Only two more months to
build before the rainy
season pushes us inside!

Marriage is what brings us together today... by Emily

Amona, one of the men who works for Jason as a welder and mason at the project land, also pastors a church in a nearby village. Recently he asked if I would come out and be the speaker for a teen retreat at his church. The theme of the retreat was, "What does the Bible say about how I should choose the right person to marry?"

The church is only about 14 miles from our house, but it is in a very rural village, so the roads are terrible. It would have been a much faster drive on a motorcycle, which is how Amona gets there and back, but for me with the truck it took over an hour.



The funny thing that's hidden in this picture of me preaching are the six cell phones that people had put on the podium to record the sermon, which I was constantly shuffling to make space for my Bible and notes without knocking down!

a bad idea for a young teenager to date a young adult?" "What do Christians do on a date?" "Is it okay to break an engagement if your fiancée cheats on you?" and "If I decide that the person I'm dating isn't the right one and we break up, is it okay to date someone else?" Needless to say, we had a lot of laughs and sincere heart-to-heart conversations over the weekend.

There were around 50 teenagers at the retreat. We had a great time talking about the real benefits of having a Christian spouse, and then we spent most of our time over the two days talking about the character traits and qualities that make a good spouse and the things we need to give up or add in to grow those character traits in our own lives. I spoke on Saturday and Sunday morning, and then on Sunday afternoon we had a group discussion time where the teens could ask me any questions they wanted about dating, marriage, or the Bible. Even though I was a bit nervous going into the question time, and they had quite a few tough ones, God guided the conversation and it was definitely the best part of the weekend.

A few of the questions they asked me were: "Why is it a



The youth leaders hanging out after service waiting for lunch with Pastor Amona (on the right.)

Sealing up the storage building / garage by Jason

The shipping container arriving earlier this year was a huge blessing, which contained tons (literally) of helpful supplies for the house, shop, and construction. Unfortunately between the termites interested in everything wood or cardboard, the sun ruining plastics quickly, and the rainy season not too many months away, we needed to get busy finding safe storage space for all of the stuff that arrived that wasn't ready to be used immediately.

Fortunately the garage / storage building wasn't too many (cont'd)



Sealing up the storage building / garage *by Jason*

(...) steps away from being up to the task. The roof we installed two years ago proved to be very reliable last rainy season while we were away, although there were a few leaks to patch owing to the fact that we used reclaimed roofing that had some holes in it that weren't in the right spots. That shouldn't be tough to address. We've also now installed the second garage door which locks, so physical security is taken care of. The last piece of the puzzle to be able to use it as safe storage space was to pour the slab which would keep the termites from attacking and allow us to pack things in closely using pallet jacks.



In an effort to get flatter floors than we're used to seeing here, we're trying out a few tools that arrived from America including floats and a power trowel!

Now that the floor has cured, we were able to safely put away almost all of the material that came in the container that wasn't immediately put to use. It's a huge blessing to have enough space to be able to protect the material that was sent over until we're ready to use it!



Above: Though not perfect, our slab pouring and finishing skills are improving with each pour!

Left: After flooding the floor for a week to cure, we've moved back in and are loving being able to keep things so organized and safe!



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