



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

June 2023

The rainy season
downpours have
begun!

Family Update *by Emily*

Savannah, Nathaniel, and Miriam's daily lives mostly involve doing their school work with me in the morning, playing with friends in the afternoon, and watching or playing the occasional StarCraft match with their dad in the evening. Not too bad. Of course, every month also brings its own unique experiences, so I thought I'd share a few recent ones.

Miriam had a lovely time as a flower girl in her former Portuguese Creole teacher's wedding. She's an observer by nature and does not normally like the spotlight. However, she took the whole crazy event in stride—taking perfectly tiny steps while dropping the exact number of petals she intended to, sitting still right next to the stage in a 100-degree church for a two-hour ceremony without a single fidget or complaint, and having hundreds of people film her and grab her for random pictures with strangers. She did get cake before pretty much anyone else at the reception, so that made it all worth it.



The flower and ring crew from the wedding!



The youth group picnic at the land!

Nathaniel decided that for his 10th birthday he'd really like to become a peanut farmer. So, we got him the seed peanuts and planted two plots together as a family. The peanuts have sprouted and we're expecting a bumper crop sometime in November.

Savannah recently moved up from the kids Sunday School class to youth class and her youth group recently spent the entire day at the project land having a summer cookout and swim party. She thrives in big groups and had a ball swimming, eating, and playing games with her friends.



Planting Nathaniel's birthday peanut field at the project land!



Blessed To Be A Blessing *by Jason*

Our well pump at the project land recently failed! While it did create some scrambling to restore not only construction water, but also the water our family drinks and the drinking water we give away to the whole community, I'm very thankful for several facets of what happened. First of all, we're thankful to all of you whose generous support not (cont'd)

Blessed To Be A Blessing (cont'd) by Jason

(...) only allows us to be here but also to have enough equipment and the supplies to keep things going. The spare well pump we had already purchased and which was brought over to us by Richard and Bill this February when they visited was ready to go when it was needed. When the pump did fail this month, we were able to have this replacement working the next day.

We've known for some time that the little solar pump we installed in the well back in 2019 was working pretty hard. The pump wasn't really designed for all of the work we've been asking it to do with all of the water that we give away to the community (which now tallies 124,000 gallons!)

In addition to your donations, we're especially thankful for the input given by two of our supporters from California in planning for the replacement: Matt, the geo-technical engineer, and Richard, the environmental chemist, who were both part of the original design of the well. A few special considerations are necessary for a pump in an open well like ours, including a float switch to turn the pump off when it's pulled the water level of the well down too far, and a sleeve that I had made that channels the water being sucked out of the well past the motor to keep it cool like it would be in a drilled/cased well like you'd have in the U.S.



A bit of electrical, a bit of plumbing, and a bit of metal fabrication. A pump replacement in an open well is a cornucopia of fun!



I'm also glad about how quickly people noticed that the pump was broken! A bunch of our neighbors stopped by to tell me there was no water at the community tap during the day that we were replacing the pump. It was a little distracting while we were trying to focus to install the replacement, but it shows first of all how many different people are drinking the water, and second how dependable it's been. Many projects install something like a well in Guinea-Bissau and then leave or move their attention to other things. When it breaks a few months or years later, it just stays broken because no one has been trained or empowered to fix it. We want to be people who show God's love consistently, and the fact that the well being broken was noticed so quickly shows how dependable it's been over the last few years.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief as the new pump started working. Showers, drinking water, construction water, and water for the community were back on tap!



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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.