



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

August 2023

Back to school! The kids are getting ready for 2nd, 5th, and 7th grade!

Progress And Green *by Jason*

It's amazing sometimes to step back and see how things have changed over time. These two drone surveys of the project happened in April and July respectively. April is close to the end of the dry season, and then July is into the time when heavy rains have been falling most days. It's amazing to see all of the growth in the bushes, plants, and trees around the site. It's also encouraging to look at the progress we've made on several buildings in that time. Though from a bird's eye view, it may only look like a few more lines on the ground, significant energy and resources have gone into completing foundations so that we can be ready to pour slabs when the rainy season ends. While we continue to work diligently in the interim to prepare, we look forward to the slabs and then finally walls starting to go up for both the new shop and our house. Thank you all for your encouragement, involvement, and support as we continue through this season of construction. It means the world to us, and we're excited as we keep the end goal in mind of the finished place being a blessing to show God's love to our friends and neighbors!

What a difference a few months, some hard work, and a lot of rain makes! April (left) vs. July (right)



Celebrating 17 Years *by Emily*

This month marks 17 years of making our home in Guinea-Bissau, and we are ever so thankful for every one of them. When I think about how different my life here is now than it was when we first arrived, I hardly recognize those first two years. So many of the major changes that I am thankful for over the last 17 years definitely didn't happen overnight! But by God's grace He has given us time and deep roots in our adopted home.

When I look at my life now I am especially thankful for:

- My comfortable use of the local language for work, friendship, teaching, and worship, which Jason dove into right away but I didn't really start making strides in until the 2nd year.
- Our reliable transportation. We didn't get a scooter until our 2nd year, upgraded to a small SUV in our 4th year and then to our current truck in our 12th year.
- Jason's shop ministry which has impacted so many organizations and lives throughout the country which got started in our 3rd year.
- The regular hospitality of expats and Guineans eating in our home, which got started in our 4th year.

(cont'd)



Celebrating 17 Years (cont'd) *by Emily*

- Our kids, which came along in our 4th year, 7th year, and 9th year.
- My deep, authentic friendships with Guineans. I had a few when we lived in the capital, but they really started on a larger scale when we got established in Canchungo in our 8th year.
- Our amazing, life giving, local church which we found and became members of in our 8th year.
- My preaching ministry which started on a regular basis in our 9th year.
- Homeschooling our kids, which has rearranged my whole schedule, stretched me, and changed me beyond belief. It started in our 9th year with one in kindergarten and continues now with a 7th grader, a 5th grader, and a 2nd grader.
- Buying property and building a home, a permanent workshop, and a ministry base, which is ongoing and got started in our 14th year.

So many times in the first 2 years I didn't see how any of this would be possible. God's timing is always for our good. I'm looking forward to seeing His faithfulness in the next 17 years of life and ministry!



Praying with friends from church.

Electricity All Over *by Jason*

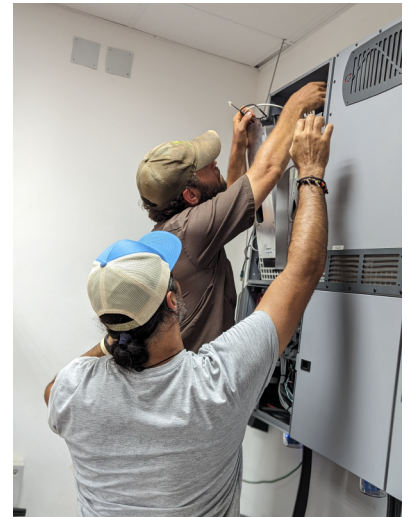
It's been an exciting last few months for solar power installation! A few months ago we shared photos of us installing a big 18kw system for our partner, WAVS, at their Bissau campus. As we noted in the article, the equipment arrived in Guinea-Bissau with an important component having been damaged in shipping, which kept the newly installed system from working. Fortunately, one of the WAVS employees returning recently from the U.S. was able to fit a replacement part in his checked bag, so we were able to install it, turn the system on, and iron out a few initial kinks. The system is now generating a lot of electricity! Although I doubt it will be enough to completely eliminate their need for grid power, it will at least take a big bite out of the power bill by blending grid power and solar power, and serve as a backup for the frequent grid outages.

In addition to the WAVS system, we were also recently able to kick off the installation of the solar power system for the drinking water filter factory! This has been an exciting project years in the making and will be the first electricity at the site! We've been waiting for the



Moses, the filter factory director, next to the electronics of the newly installed solar system.

local partner organization to iron out a few issues with their guards (as the site is fairly secluded and a few things have been stolen in recent years, with solar panels being a high value target). They seem to have gotten that situation better covered, so we were able to begin the installation. The system is currently only partially installed (only a quarter of the panels) in order to get the battery (which has been sitting for several years) charged up so that we can go back to complete the installation, commission the system, and begin the site electrical installation with lights, outlets, and security cameras. In the next few months we expect to be able to go back to complete the installation which initially will not yet power any of the factory machines, but which will allow us over time to migrate hand-powered and gas-powered machines over to electric, improving reliability, lessening maintenance, and giving the workers' arms a break all while producing filters more quickly!



Performing surgery on the 7kw inverter. Fortunately it was successful!

Please note the address change:
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1105 Southview Lane Ste 103
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