



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

November 2023

Our first visitors this winter were an encouragement, with more to come soon!

Party Time *by Emily*

We had our first visitors of the “winter” this past month. Brent and Connie Gregory do missionary care with Barnabas International, and they have been working with all of the missionaries in our organization for the past 3 or 4 years. We talk to them on Zoom every month, and this was their second trip out to Guinea-Bissau to see us and our ministry in action and to meet the different people in our lives here.

While they were here, I threw a party for the women of our church and its church plant which is in a neighboring town. The party was an all-day event at the project land with campfire cooking, games, so many prizes, and a prayer service. Some of

the prizes were fun things that I had purchased in the U.S., but the other prizes were not only beautiful and beloved but special because of where they came from. Last year my dad gave me all of my mom’s headscarves and caps that she had worn during her cancer treatment to give to the ladies of our church who loved me and prayed for our whole family over those 3 years. Also last year a dear friend in Tulsa passed away suddenly, and her husband gave me a whole collection of her beautiful jewelry to give to the women here. So, I invited a crowd, cooked a feast, hung up all of the lovely prizes on cords strung around the pillars of our new house under construction, planned all kinds

of games and activities, and relished the day of fellowship, laughter, and joy.

Brent and Connie enjoyed the visit, the party, and the whole community of lovely people in our lives each day.



Cooking together!



Caught In The Middle, Again *by Jason*

Unfortunately, this month we found ourselves in the middle of the latest chapter of the legal fight between the vocational school here in Canchungo (where our shop is still located) and the church whose land the school is built on. The legal process is closing in on its second year, and the court recently issued a judgement handing the school building over to the church in the interim as it continues to try the case.

We haven’t been part of the vocational school organization for years, so our equipment fortunately isn’t part of the issue of contested ownership. However, our rental agreement with the vocational school (who graciously let us stay in the space once we weren’t part of the organization anymore) now needs to be renegotiated but with the church. Many details come along with this (electricity from the shared solar power system, guarding arrangements, etc.), but early negotiations were contentious about topics we didn’t even expect to be a problem. The church’s position is that since the initial court decision came out in January 2022 handing the building over to them, we owe them 2 years of back rent. However, the vocational school appealed that decision, and the handover was paused the following (cont’d)