



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

May 2024

May was packed getting everything ready for the rainy season and our time in the States!

Good To The Last Drop *by Jason*

I am delighted and relieved to announce that we are finally done pouring the new workshop's slab! The nearly 5,000 square foot building has a 6" thick slab to deal with the weight of machines, vibrations, and loaded pallet jacks. In total, the floor was poured in 23 sections, totaling about 100 cubic yards of concrete, mixed in approximately 530 batches in our single-sack gas cement mixer. (Our sacks are about 15% bigger than in the U.S. for some reason.) Although not perfect, I'm excited about how the slab came out and glad that we were able to finish it before the rainy season arrived and ruined the compaction of the subgrade under it. (Emily would point out that we cut it as close as possible, as the first rain fell the evening we finished the last pour! I still say we made it by the deadline, so on time, haha...)



As you've seen in previous newsletters, we already have a good start on several of the shop's walls. We'll continue the process of laying block, pouring columns and bond beams, and eventually roofing the building before turning to interior finishing, electrical, plumbing, and the like. While it may seem like we're just beginning, as we've only now finished the last of the floor, the foundation and slab were slow, but the process of building the walls will go relatively quickly. It's (cont'd)



School's Out *by Emily*

The kids and I finished 7th, 5th, and 2nd grades about a month before our departure date for the U.S. They were excited to have some extra time to play with friends, and I was looking forward to doing a lot of extra sewing and gardening between all of the packing. They did get a lot of time with their friends, and I did get the house packed up, my garden beds cleaned out and cover crops planted, all of my mending done, and 2 dresses made; however, the month of May was quite a bit busier for me than I had planned.



When we told our church at the end of April that we had tickets and would be leaving in the beginning of June, everyone decided to schedule me to speak as much as possible before we left. I preached at our church and at our sister church, and taught every week at women's discipleship group and Sunday school for the whole month. Thank goodness school was already out for the summer!

