



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,  
West Africa

June 2024

We are enjoying our first month back, in Arkansas, and looking forward to Michigan in July!

## Work Continues *by Jason*

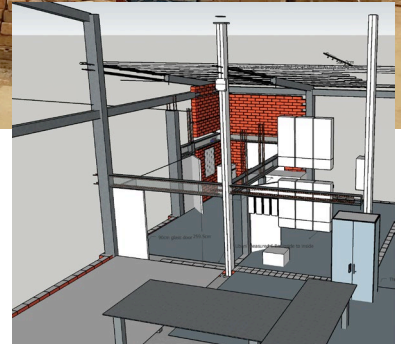
I feel fortunate to have felt the same way several times in the past, but every time we leave Guinea-Bissau and see how the team we left behind steps up and fills in to keep things rolling in our absence, I am blessed all over again. The rainy season is now in full swing back in Canchungo, which slows construction down quite a bit when we don't have inside work to do yet. Even so my team is doing their best between storms to keep making progress building the walls and pouring the columns and beams that will form my office and the storage room in the new workshop. Once those steps are done, Cirilo will spearhead the effort to roof those two rooms. Then, with the inside protected from the rain, the masons will be able to plaster and paint the walls.

The storage room will also be the nerve center of the electrical system not only of the shop but of the whole base, housing the electronics of the solar system that will power it all. Augustinho (Aug-ust-EEN-yoo) the electrician will be able to install the part of the solar array that will sit on that section of roof (the first solar panels at the site that will finally be installed in their permanent position!). In addition to panels above, he'll be able to begin the preliminary wiring, so when I get back in December, we can complete the full installation of the solar system's electronics in that room. Which will give us three phase power and pave the way for being able to run all of the shop equipment, a necessary step before everything can be moved to the new place.

Though the pace will be slower while we're away, it's a big blessing that we have a team making forward progress and keeping an eye on things while we're gone.



*Amadu and Libani in the doorway of my new office, which is looking more and more like the drawing every day!*



## June *by Emily*

We left Guinea-Bissau in early June. After a 4-day trip from our home in Canchungo to Jason's parents' house in Michigan, we spent 3 days sleeping at odd hours, doing laundry, unpacking and repacking, and then hit the road bound for my dad's house in Arkansas.

Over Father's Day weekend, dad, his 4 kids, and their families - 17 people in all - packed into Dad's house for a sibling / cousin / dad / grandad extravaganza. It was great to see everyone and I was relieved to find out that I am still taller than all of my nieces and nephews (barely, haha).



*Cooking with Dad.*

Spending time with dad always involves lots of walks through the neighborhood, hikes on interesting trails, and baking delicious bread. While Dad is at work, the kids have been loving visits to the library and several splash pads. Jason has already started spending a chunk of time each day researching and bidding at industrial auctions to prepare for the shipping container we will be sending this fall, and I have been reading lots of my mom's theology books and preparing for several upcoming teaching opportunities - one in June where I preached in Dad's church so his pastors could take their family out of town and several coming up in July.

In early July we have a few days in Illinois on our way back up to Michigan for time with Jason's family and Simpson Park Camp.



