



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,  
West Africa

February 2025

Temps are going up, but so are walls and roofing!

## Roofing Begins! by Jason

We made a significant step forward in the workshop construction this month! We have built the roof over one corner of the shop, covering my new office and the storage room where the solar electrical system will be installed. The patch of roof is small (only about 22'x22'), but important for several reasons. First, it's the beginning of the shop roof, which is exciting, even though it will be a while before we're ready to cover the whole rest of it. Second, by protecting the room where the solar electronics will live, we're able to begin the permanent installation of those components (rather than



*The new shop construction is marching along, with its first roof section and walls getting taller!*

the current partial installation sitting on a shelf in the shipping container). This installation will let us upgrade the partial single-phase system to the permanent three-phase system, which means we can run the shop equipment from it, when the time comes to begin bringing equipment over from the old shop. Finally, having the roof space also allowed us to rehome 2kw of solar panels that had been propped up on blocks on the ground since last year. Now, those panels are permanently installed on the roof and are joined by 2kw more, for a total installed capacity of 7kw (of the eventual 15kw).



*Five years in the making: the solar system electronics begin permanent installation!*

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*Though we've had solar panels in temporary mounts since almost the beginning of construction, this month we got to mount the first panels in their permanent location. This section is about a third of the eventual system that will run the shop and site.*



*Blocks, columns, and bond beams continue to go up. The shop is advancing!*

The last month has also brought continued, steady progress on the new shop's walls and columns. We now have the outside wall of the shop completely filled in, and though some sections of it aren't up to full height yet, they're all above 10', which is enough to get a feel for what the inside will be like! Internal dividing walls are also going up as we continue to work toward the goal of finishing one quarter of the shop, the north lean-to which will house the machine shop, so that we can move into it before the rainy season.

## Teaching *by Emily*

When we arrived in December, I was able to jump back into the teaching rotation in kids' Sunday school (around 50 kids aged 2 to 12). I am one of three teachers who take turns leading the kids in singing, verse memorization, and teaching the lesson each Sunday. Right now, we are spending several months talking with the kids about the Holy Spirit – who He is, what He's like, how He works, things He has done and continues to do, and how we hear and experience Him. It has been beautiful seeing them realize that the Spirit lives in them and guides them.

In January and February, I also taught a 5-week series in our women's discipleship group where we took a deep dive into 5 aspects of the character of God from Psalm 145:8-9. It was such a fruitful time for us to slowly consider how our view of God, ourselves, and our world are shaped by the knowledge that God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and full of mercy and love, and that His goodness and compassion are for all.

One of the greatest blessings of teaching is that I get to spend so much time during my preparation really unpacking so many beautiful and often challenging truths from scripture and what they mean in my day to day life. God continues His transformative work in me and then allows me to take part in sharing that transformation with others—what a gift!



*Preaching at our church on Sunday morning in February.*



*The women from my discipleship group together with four of our guests from Simpson Park Camp.*



*Teaching kids' Sunday school.*



*Savannah's favorite hobby is origami. She folded this dragon out of a single 2ft wide square of paper.*



*It's always fun to beat your own Mom in a math game. Go Miriam!*



*Nathaniel loves to volunteer to lead worship in Sunday School. On this day he was joined by Betinha and Ortensia.*



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