



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

May 2025

Roofing just in
time for the rains!

Machine Shop Wing Roof *by Jason*

This month was a busy one, but marked an important milestone in the urgency of the last 12 months. We completed roofing the quarter of the new shop building that will hold the machine shop! Much of our work over the last year has been focused on getting this space ready, collecting equipment and supplies to send over in the container, and unloading the container last month. We had a lot of fun while we were in the U.S., but most of the time since last May has been one deadline looming after another: first getting the site ready for us to go back to the U.S. for furlough, then visiting everyone and buying all of the material/equipment to send in the container, then packing it all up and getting it shipped off, then having this space ready to receive and store the stuff before the rainy season starts. With a great sigh of relief, I'm happy to announce that we (with much help!) managed it and the new arrivals are safe from the impending rain.

This wing of the new shop is similar in size than my whole existing shop at the old vocational school. The work of getting the new space ready has been a key goal over this last year not only to have space for this new equipment, but also because very soon we'll be able to begin migrating equipment over from the current shop. Though it

will be a tight fit,

and we likely won't be able to fit every last thing into it and will thus keep renting the current shop space for a while longer, the ability to move the most critical equipment over will both accelerate work by having things handy at the new site and also let us finally have the key equipment in a space we control and know it's safe, which hasn't been the case for many years.

Next, we'll move on to plaster, paint, and electrical in preparation for setting up equipment!



Benildo is at the far end laying out the truss pieces to prepare for welding.



After the last steel column of this side of the shop was set, the welders and masons had a friendly race. The masons built the last section of wall while the welders set the roof



A Space To Share *by Emily*

A significant part of our ministry has always been about inviting others in. For a meal, for a party, or even for several weeks—we have always loved hosting both people from our community and people who have traveled here from other countries. Even though we are still very much in the construction phase, having space to call our own at Project Hope has already opened more doors for hosting individuals and groups over the past few years.

Just this past month we hosted a marriage retreat where couples from a local church came out and set up under several large shady trees for two days of games, speakers, swimming, and campfire cooking. Because of our running water, solar-powered electricity, and privacy (the 3-acre property is a two-minute walk from the nearest house in our neighborhood), Project Hope is an ideal place for groups to get together.

Now that we have screens on the windows, tile on the floor, and a working toilet and shower, we have been using the little guest bungalow at Project Hope as well. Our friend from the US, Richard, spent a night there in April to test it all out, and then we had friends from the interior of Guinea-Bissau who were in town for a wedding in May stay there for a long weekend with their two little boys. We don't have much furniture yet, so it's just a simple mattress on the floor arrangement for now, but with 24/7 power, running water, and a gorgeous view of the river, it's nicer than most hotels in Guinea-Bissau.

Below: One last view of our newly-covered machine shop space. Now on to finishing and electrical so we can begin uncovering and setting up machines!



The marriage retreat during one of their group discussion sessions.



A squirt gun battle with our guests. Two-year-old Jayden had fun running around with his dad and the big kids while his baby brother Tony enjoyed the craziness from the sidelines.



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