



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

January 2026

We used the cloudy,
cooler days to pour the
rest of our house's slab!

Finished House Floor *by Jason*

Our house has a finished (ground-floor) slab! In January we took advantage of the (relatively) cool days to pour the whole rest of the house's ground floor. We had previously completed the veranda, master bedroom, bathroom, and closet, as well as Emily's office. What remained was the lion's share including a large living room, the kitchen, pantry, a broom closet, the kids' bedrooms, their bathroom, and their hallway.



Our first pour this season was the biggest of the house: the living room. It came out great!

Because of the path the tractor would travel from outside of the house to bring the mixed concrete to the pours, the living room was the pour that needed to happen next. I will confess that I had put off doing it in December because I was a bit apprehensive about how it would go. The living room would be our biggest slab pour to date, and because of the possibility of leaving it as a bare concrete floor, we didn't want a joint in the middle of it like we

would have been left with if we poured it in two chunks on successive days. So, it needed to happen in one shot, and we were out of practice, with the most recent slab pour we'd done being last year. With no cement trucks available, the 9 cubic yards (about 50 cement mixer loads) needed to be mixed and tracted to the pour one at a time. We've had smaller pours try

to get away from us in the past, when the sun was curing the first part beyond our ability to finish it before we even had the last load down.

Fortunately, with cooler weather, good planning, my crew's hard work, and God's grace, we were able to complete the living room floor uneventfully. It came out great, what a relief! With that victory under our belt, we moved on and over the next 11 days, doing three more pours, were able to complete (cont'd)



The living room slab freshly cured, the second pour tarped/ponded, and the third prepped!



Our pours began at daybreak, having prepped everything possible the day before to take advantage of the cool(er) morning hours.



After the success with the living room, we decided to combine the next two pours into another big one: the kitchen, pantry, and Savannah's room.



Once again, the tractor was indispensable as a concrete-delivery buggy!

Finished House Floor (cont'd) by Jason

(...) the whole rest of the slab, ending on January 31st. What a fun feeling to look out over a flat, smooth, complete floor for our entire house!

We're so thankful for the prayer, encouragement, and support that allowed us to build a strong, solid floor for our house. We have high hopes that a proper foundation and slab will greatly diminish all of the ants, termites, and other bugs that are constantly invading our current house. Nature is beautiful, but it belongs outside! Thank you for joining us on this journey!



By the last big pour, our team was a well-oiled machine! So thankful for such a great team.



After a hectic few weeks, we waited for the last bit of the hallway to cure in the shade.

Chicken Roasting Over an Open Fire by Emily

Over the past few years it has become a fun tradition to spend some time camping as a family to start the new year. December and January are our cold season (I won't call it winter, haha) with day time highs in the 80s and 90s and night time lows in the upper 60s—pretty much the perfect weather for spending the whole day outside. For some reason unknown to me, my husband and children love to spend time sleeping in tents, burning branches, and balancing plates on their laps around a campfire. I go along with it for them, and because it's fun to have the whole family together all day, outside of our normal work and routine.



To make it a little easier for me, the past few years we have actually camped at Project Hope. The kids pitched their tent on our future front porch and Jason and I slept in our guest bungalow. We have a freezer there in Jason's office, letting me prep the meat and sauces beforehand, and we also have running water and electricity. Jason calls it glamping, and I'm fine with that.

In this busy season of construction, ministry, and homeschool, I don't want to miss out on just enjoying each other, even if that comes along with dirty feet and smoky hair.

Left: This rapidly growing 12-year-old is all arms and legs: Nathaniel, our campfire master.



Camp fire cooking under a bright blue sky, in the shade of a palm tree, with the pillars of our future house beside us.



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