



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau with



January 2019

A surprise women's  
conference at church and  
the first factory filters!

## First Fruits! *by Jason*

We are delighted to announce that the first drinking water filters from the factory project are in the homes of paying customers! This is a significant milestone for the project and hopefully the first of thousands of families protected from water-borne diseases like cholera and E.coli in Guinea-Bissau where those diseases take such a significant toll on the health of so many people.



Richard was only able to stay for a week on this semi-annual trip, but we had a full calendar and were able to accomplish a lot. We had scheduled a product launch at the factory ahead of time, and had some important steps remaining before we'd have a batch of filters ready to present. We worked out a way to attach spigots to the buckets we'd purchased. He also figured out and trained the Guinean workers on the procedure to apply the all-important anti-bacterial colloidal silver treatment to the filters.



*After custom-grinding a drill bit to help keep the plastic from splitting, we had our temporary spigot installation system!*

The factory project has been years in the making, and while Richard was telling everyone that we have "finally arrived at the beginning" since there is still so much work ahead of us, it was a sweet victory to see the first filters in the hands of happy customers and the product launch covered on national TV.

We will now begin the long processes of incrementally improving our production pace and yield, driving down production cost per filter, figuring out packaging, and establishing our sales and distribution channels. The project has come so far, and we're still a long way from the final goal of a self-supporting factory that can make enough filters to satisfy the demand for a safe, low-cost drinking water solution - but we're extremely grateful for how far we have already come and endlessly optimistic about the possibility that we'll arrive at that goal eventually!



*Richard and I, the workers of the factory, and the staff of the local organization in charge of the project.*

## Welcome Back *by Emily*

The best part of arriving back in Guinea-Bissau in December was being with my husband and kids again, but right behind that was the reunion with our church family. During my first week back my women's group came over for a welcome back party and we had a wonderful time eating, chatting, and praying together again. These women and their passion to see their community and their families transformed with the power of the Gospel is such an encouragement and inspiration to me.



*Sharing a bowl of spaghetti and sardines (party food) with the ladies from my church.*



*Preaching at our church in Canchungo. Every time I have the chance to stand up in front of our church and teach I am overwhelmed again by what a privilege it is to share God's word with His people in a country and language that is not my own.*

## Surprise! It's a Women's Conference! *by Emily*

Our church here in Canchungo is connected with a Brazilian church just outside of Boston, Massachusetts, and a pastor from that church, Gilson, visits the church here for around a month each year. This year Pastor Gilson's wife ended up coming with him at the last minute, and

to celebrate her coming the women in my church decided to put on a weekend long event.



*A skit showing the parable of the lost coin in church on Sunday morning.*



*The women from the conference relaxing under the mango tree in-between sessions.*

A team of seven (including Evalini, the visitor from the U.S.) organized the women's conference (which was Friday night, all day Saturday, and all day Sunday), inviting our friends and neighbors, learning new worship songs in different tribal languages, preparing teaching, planning a meal, and even acting out a Bible story during the Sunday morning worship service. To finish the weekend off the women challenged the teenage girls to a soccer game. Both teams did their best to defeat the other but in the end we tied 1-1.



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