



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,  
West Africa

March 2024

We're forging ahead as fast as we can with only a few months left before we fly to the US!

## New Shop Gets Vertical *by Jason*

We have been making exciting progress on the new workshop! Walls are finally starting to go up! Since the last shop update in December, we've now completed enough slab pours to have laid half of the total shop floor. The machine shop (the wing we're trying to complete first so that we can move the equipment into it) now has one of its 60' long walls done and the three 20' long walls half done. The remaining wall will only be able to be built once we have poured the adjoining floor sections and set the six steel columns that will support the roof.

The opposite corner of the shop will be a pair of small rooms: an office for me and a lockable storage room where we



can store supplies. The storage will also house the solar power system in its final installation. You may remember that we've run the entire construction and water pumping from solar power (excepting a few small gas motors on things like the cement mixer). We recently expanded the solar power system (which is temporarily set up inside the shipping container) because we needed some more juice, by adding panels sitting temporarily on top of a couple of the new shop walls. Even with the extra capacity, the system we're currently running with is about a third of the final system and not capable of operating much of the shop equipment we're working toward moving (because of capacity and the lack of three phase electricity). So in addition to trying to finish building and roofing the machine shop wing, we're trying to build those two rooms. Roofing them will give us both a dry, secure place to begin the full, final installation of the solar power system's electronics and also enough new south-facing roof to almost double the number of panels we have up. Once we get to that point, we should have enough electricity to carry us through the rest of construction, even if we don't complete the installation of all of the solar panels until the end.

*The shop construction is making progress, day by day! This drone photo is a few weeks old, before we had even more floor poured.*

The last few months have at times felt like quite a grind. Week after week have been spent in endless cycles of buying and screening gravel, prepping another floor section, and then pouring it. Over and over. The heat is ratcheting up, and concrete work is unforgiving in it. The deadline of our early June flights back to the States looms large and doesn't leave room for any breaks. However when I step back, it's encouraging how much is being accomplished and amazing to realize what a privilege it is to be able to build a project that we've been dreaming about and wishing for for so long—a permanent home for our ministry that has enough space and is ours. While we're still in the thick of construction, it's exciting to look forward to the possibilities that this place has to be a blessing to our community.



## The Year Of The Dads *by Emily*

We have had so many special visits this year, but nothing can top the tremendous joy of hosting both of our dads about a month apart from each other. My dad was here for the very first time for 2 weeks in January and we put him to work tiling the floor of the guest bungalow at Esperança (the project land). Jason's dad arrived in mid-February for his third trip over to see us, and he will be with us until the end of April. We've currently got him doing the design, prototyping, and building of the doors and some of the windows in that same little guest house.

Jason and I both loved growing up with dads who could fix anything, and having them here to use their tremendous skill sets in our construction has been great, but that's not the best part. Inviting them into our daily routines has also been wonderful – yawning around the breakfast table, admiring the kids' latest school work, eating giant shrimp fresh from the ocean, bed time stories with Grandpa—but that hasn't been the best part either.



*Michael T. and Dad (Chuck) setting the first row of tiles.*

or how to walk through the deep dust of the paths between houses in the dry season. Having people in their family understand the context of their stories without explanation because they've been to those places, seen those things, walked on those dirt roads—that's the biggest blessing for our whole family.

We are so thankful for the sacrifice that both of our dads made to come all the way over into our little corner of the world this year!



*Dad (Paul) took our chainsaw local mahogany and made french doors for the bungalow!*



*Dad (Chuck) and Ray Haskell painting the walls of the guest bungalow. Check out that lovely view out the front door!*



*Dad (Paul) screening the windows the Tulsa team made before installing them.*



### To Give Online:

At [JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/give](http://JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/give) you can make a one-time donation or set up an automatic monthly donation by EFT or credit card.

### To Give By Check:

Please make checks payable to:  
Hope Remembered / 1105 Southview Lane Ste 103 /  
PMB #159 / Tuscaloosa, AL 35405  
with "Atkins" in the memo.