



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,
West Africa

July 2024

The highlight of July was
our time at Simpson Park
Camp in Michigan

Baptism *by Emily*

Miriam is not a particularly stubborn individual, but every once in a while, she makes up her mind and there is no changing it. A few weeks ago we were just about to sit down to lunch on a Sunday afternoon when Miriam called me over. In her most serious and decisive voice, she told me, "Mom, I've decided to get baptized." We had a great discussion about what baptism means, and I told her that we could definitely do it during our time in the U.S.

I thought the issue was settled, but Miriam looked at me like I was crazy and started again, "Mom, I've decided to get baptized. After lunch I'm just going walk over to a church, find a pastor, answer all of his questions, do the baptism, and walk home. You don't even have to come. It's fine."

I wanted to laugh at the thought of my 8-year-old, who doesn't like talking to strangers, striking out from home on her own in search of a baptism, but the reality behind her words was that she saw this as an obedience issue and did not want to delay. Thinking fast I told her that we would be at Simpson Park Camp in less than a week and asked her if it would be okay if we did the baptism there. She accepted. Nathaniel had expressed interest in baptism a few months ago and was thrilled at the thought of being baptized together with his sister, so a long-time friend of ours, Pastor Michael Sawicki, baptized both of them in the pond at Simpson Park Camp. Dead to their sins. Raised to new life. To God be the glory.



*Nathaniel and
Miriam were
baptized in the
pond at camp!*

Collection Begins *by Jason*

One of my main work tasks while we're in the US until December is going to be to once again put together a shipping container of equipment and building supplies. We're hoping that this will be the last container we need to send for a few years. If that's to be the case, we're targeting a few specific areas while sourcing the stuff we'll send. First, we need to send the rest of the building supplies where options in G-B are either too expensive or too low-quality. Second, we're sending a few machines to round out the carpentry shop we hope to build after the workshop and our house is done. Third, backups for a few key pieces of equipment in the metal shop. Fourth, adding a few machines that will allow more people to work at the same time in our new, larger shop with more plentiful electricity. And finally, as in the past, we'll also be transporting supplies and equipment for several ministry partners in Guinea-Bissau including the vocational school and drinking water filter factory. (cont'd)



Moving a tippy 4,000 lb machine requires a lot of strapping!

Collection Begins (cont'd) *by Jason*

When looking for equipment, it's a hard (but mostly fun) job to balance spending as little as possible against the fact that we don't want to send over junk that's past being useful. Fortunately, with industrial machinery, it's pretty hard for machines to be worn out in ways that aren't repairable—so I'm often able to buy old machines and get them back to functional without huge expense. The first major piece of equipment for this container showed up at an auction before I was really even ready to deal with it, but the deal was too good to pass up! So, the shop is now the proud owner of a 1980 Metal Muncher ironworker! (1980 is relatively young compared to a lot of the other equipment in my shop, much of it from the 60's and 70's, but I was born in 1981 and am starting to not think of myself as all that young these days, so I suppose it's all relative!)



The Metal Muncher safely tucked away in storage to await the container!



A wonderful haul of electrical wire from a recent auction which will help with the new workshop

You'd be forgiven for not knowing what an "ironworker" does by its name, but they're used to cut metal without using up saw blades (which we have to continually bring from the US) and punch holes as well. They're very versatile, and although this one is missing a few pieces, we'll get that sorted out and have a fabulous machine in the end, I'm confident! The machine clocks in at around 4,000 pounds and was no picnic to get moved around, but it's now safely nestled in a mini-storage unit where we'll be staging the container crates to try not to fill up my parents' barn and garage like we did last time around!

Thank you to all of you who fund our ministry and the work of the shop in supporting our partner ministries and vocational training.

Simpson Park Camp *by Emily*

This past month I had the opportunity to do my favorite thing at one of my favorite places—preach from God's word at Simpson Park Camp.

As I prepared my messages I thought about God's work in my life at this special place: becoming a Christian after a Kiddie Korner class when I was 5 years old, meeting Jason on the playground when we were kids, making life-altering decisions about following hard after God at the altar as a teenager, doing some of my first real ministry alongside Jason as we counseled in the youth program together, getting engaged during the week of camp in 2003, deciding to take a short term missions trip to Guinea-Bissau at camp in 2005, and receiving mission teams from camp in Guinea-Bissau in 2023 and 2024.

Every year that I have been able to attend Simpson Park Camp I have been shaped and changed there. God has truly blessed my life through the ministry of this camp, and it was such an honor to be able to give something back to the place that has given me so much.



Preaching about God's relentless pursuit of us from one of my favorite books of the Bible: Hosea.



To Give Online:

At 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.