



# The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,  
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau,  
West Africa

March 2026

We're looking forward  
to seeing many of you  
this summer/fall!

## Shop Roof Trusses *by Jason*

One of the last major projects that must be completed before we come back to the U.S. for the summer/fall is the last roof section of the new workshop. We'll be heading out just as the rainy season begins, and now that we have equipment in the center (largest) section of the shop, we need to make sure the building keeps the equipment dry while we're gone! (It will also be a major bonus to have the equipment be in the shade instead of the punishing sun!)

With the help of engineering firm Rose PE (thanks!), we have a final design for the trusses we'll need to fabricate to cover the 34' wide span. It's a daunting project both because of the size and because of the height, and we're very thankful to have a professionally engineered plan!



*Jigs are key to repeatable work. Time to crank out roof trusses for the central section of the shop!*

With pieces cut and jigs created, we are currently welding up the ten halves, which will then be joined in pairs on the ground before being lifted up with ropes to sit atop the 20' tall steel columns where they'll live. The lifting will be a major task, with guys on the lean-to walls on either side and others in the middle on top of all of the scaffolding we have, but we'll work carefully and once we're done, the roof structure should be good for basically forever as long as we stay on repainting to keep it from rusting!

Please join us in praying for steady progress, safety, and a successful completion to the new shop's roof. It will be hard for me to leave after finally covering the space without having the time to also set up all of the equipment and shelving that will eventually live in that space, but that fun project will be waiting for us when we return to Canchungo in December after seeing many of you over the summer/fall and resting up before the next round!



*This Wells bandsaw made in Kalamazoo, MI in 1983 is the best horizontal bandsaw my workshop has had. It chews through stacks of stock making clean, straight cuts. Sure beats a hacksaw and a sore arm!*



*Trusses are starting to stack up, waiting for paint!*

## Village Women's Conference *by Emily*

When I was attending a regional Sunday school teacher training last year I met a Guinean pastor's wife, Elizabeth, from the village of C6 (which is about 17 miles from here, but on a good road, so it's a half-hour drive). We kept in (cont'd)

## Village Women's Conference (cont'd) by Emily

(...) touch and a few months later she invited me to speak at a women's conference at their church. Elizabeth gave me the theme verse and the number of times they wanted me to speak (Saturday morning, Saturday night, and Sunday morning), and I started to prepare.

I had never been to C  before, but Elizabeth told me not to bring a tent or an air mattress because they would take care of everything. So, on a Friday afternoon I got on a public transit van bound for the capital with one little suitcase and the instructions to get out at "the big tree" as I was passing through C . I found the big tree and from there got directions to the church where I discovered that there was an elementary school, Elizabeth's house, and the house of a young Brazilian missionary couple who had a room ready for me. (I had not been expecting indoor plumbing or an actual bed, so they were a pleasant surprise!)

There were around 25 women at the conference, which was the perfect number for me to learn most of their names and stories in between the heaps of questions they had for me as we sat around the campfire, chopping onions and pounding hot peppers into a seasoning paste between services. The Brazilian missionary family was also in their first year in Guinea-Bissau and even though we were communicating in a bizarre mixture of Portuguese and Creole, our conversations were surprisingly deep, and I definitely felt the Spirit's leading as I was able to encourage them in many different areas of life and ministry.



Bringing the word late Saturday night in full Guinean garb.



Digging into a big bowl of rice together with some of the women from the church in C .

## Small Projects by Jason

It's helpful during a long project to have some little reminders of the end goal. The shop's two-part mission of demonstrating God's love through helping keep things running in Guinea-Bissau and providing a place where welders can receive training and use equipment is continuing to be fulfilled even while we're still building it. Several of the guys on my crew take small metalworking

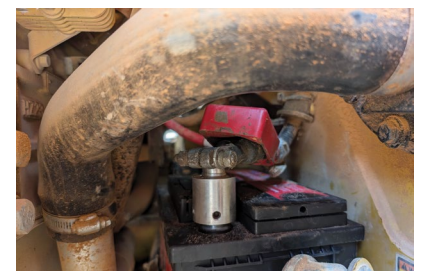
contracts on the side and complete them on our equipment after hours, helping prove the model is helpful and sound. There's also a never ending stream of small machining jobs to assist the local mechanics in keeping vehicles running!



Drilling out the holes for replacement wheel studs in a truck's hub.



Sometimes the projects are to keep our own vehicles going! In this case we couldn't find a replacement battery for the skid steer with a flat top like the original, so I had to machine a battery post extension so the connector could clear the raised top of the new battery!



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