



# YOUTHFORCHRIST

every young person one at a time



September, 2008

## Jason & Emily Atkins serving with

### YOUTHFORCHRIST GUINEA-BISSAU



*A watermelon on Christmas day would put a smile on anybody's face!*

### Thank You

The past few years have been a wonderful adventure for us! Two years ago we never would have imagined that we would be where we are now. God has blessed us in amazing ways, and we can't believe that we have the opportunity to do it all again! Thank you for your prayers and packages, and thank you for your friendship and financial support. We are looking forward to the next two years and we are excited that so many of you want to be a part of what we are doing.

### Our New Home on the Web

One of the projects we've been working on recently is a new website! We're trying our best to make it easy for everyone to stay in touch with us and keep up on what's been happening.



So, visit [www.jasonandemilyatkins.com](http://www.jasonandemilyatkins.com) to:

- read about what's going on with our team
- find out how you can pray for us
- be a part of God's answers to prayer
- see our pictures and videos
- check out our latest blogs

Comments and suggestions are welcome!

### The Future (by Emily)

We serve a huge God! He is always working and when we let Him lead us He will do incredible things with our lives. For the past two years we have been volunteering with Youth for Christ (YFC). We've made two eight month trips to Guinea-Bissau in West Africa to work at a YFC Youth Center and we love the work that we do there. The English school that I was a part of is going strong with an all-Guinean teaching staff. The computer school that Jason started now has over 250 students taking classes each day.

As our second trip was coming to a close our hearts started breaking at the thought of not continuing the work in Guinea-Bissau. Right now especially it feels like the needs of the country and the opportunities that YFC has to meet those needs fall right into step with our talents and abilities. As we prayed about it God put a huge desire in both of our hearts to return to Guinea-Bissau and continue working there.

We will be returning with three other families who have also been called to continue the work that God is doing in Guinea-Bissau. All of us have spent time serving as missionaries in West Africa, and all of us are really excited to see God work there again! If you want to read all about our team and see some pictures of them, go to our website and click on the team page.

## **Summer Institute (by Emily)**

Because we are joining YFC's full time staff we have had some training to do, and the first thing on that list was Summer Institute. Summer Institute is an intro into the mission and history of YFC/USA and it is required for all first year YFC staff.



*Jason and Erica, Wade and Katie, and us*

It was held in Indiana during the first part of June. Out of the 120 new YFC staff who were there, 21 of them were headed overseas with YFC World Outreach.

We learned a lot about how YFC got started and it's vision for the future. Our favorite part of the week was getting to know the other missionaries. In our free times we spent a lot of time praying with a small group of missionaries, and God was definitely present. It was cool to hear how different people had decided to work in other countries and to hear about the places they were going. Because Jason and I have already worked overseas with YFC, we were asked to speak during the World Outreach presentation. We enjoyed sharing a little bit of what God has been doing in Guinea-Bissau through the work of YFC.



*YFC World Outreach staff and new missionaries at Summer Institute*

## **Catch it! (by Jason)**

I've heard it said that prayer is more often caught than taught. I'm not sure I would have understood that until it happened to me! On two occasions over the last couple of months we've had the chance to meet and spend time with a couple that's joining the team returning to Guinea-Bissau. Wade and Katie spent several years in our neck of the woods in West Africa before spending the past few years at an urban ministry in Charlotte, NC. They are incredible, and we're blessed to have them as part of the team! As Emily and I talked to them and got to hear stories of what God has done in and through them we really started to realize how important spending lots of time in prayer is to what God is doing. I also re-realized something that I think I knew already: prayer has a lot to do with God changing us as well as the world around us.

We want to be people of prayer and we want to cultivate prayer in the lives of people around us. In Guinea-Bissau we are going to be mobilizing a team of Guineans to pray for the work of Youth for Christ in their country. We would also like to have a prayer team in the US. We would love it if you would commit to pray for us and our work, and honestly we can't do what we do without you! We included our prayer cards in this letter and have a special page on our website to keep you updated on things to pray for and answers to prayer. Just go to our website and click on the prayer page to check it out.

## **Partnering (by Emily)**

We know that we serve a big God and we have been so blessed by His faithfulness these past two years. As we get ready to go back to Guinea-Bissau we are hoping that God will lead some of you to consider joining our financial support team. Since we are going back as full-time missionaries part of the support given will be used to fund projects in addition to supporting us personally. All together that will take about \$4200 a month which will need to be pledged before we can go. Additionally, the total for the trainings, plane tickets, equipment that we need to take over, and other initial setup costs will be \$16,000. If you would like to join our support team you can use the yellow slip and envelope to mail a check to YFC, or give online through our website, or use the included brochure to monthly EFT.

**Thanks!**

*Jason + Emily*