

Jason & Emily Atkins

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau
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Imagine you're in a room with 40 other people learning about how your personality changes under stress. In the middle of the lecture a guy storms in, tells you that rebels have overthrown the government, they are kidnapping foreigners, and you are in danger. He splits the group in half, separating you from your spouse, and leads each group of 20 to separate 10 ft x 6 ft wooden crates that are only about 5.5 ft tall and tells you that the rebels have occupied the building and your only option is to hide in the crate and wait for help to come. While you are in the crate for what seems like hours you hear gunfire and grenades exploding. Then you get news that there is a tiny airplane leaving within the hour, but it can only take three people, so you have to decide who to send. Later you are discovered by the rebels and they start pulling random people from the crate and executing them one by one in an effort to make your government pay ransom for the remaining hostages.

That is exactly what we did last Wednesday in our hostage simulation at Mission Training International (MTI) in Colorado. For the past three weeks we've been acting in role plays, sitting in lectures, taking personality inventories, participating in group discussions, and even hiding in wooden crates to learn about the ways that living on the mission field will affect us and to prepare for those effects. It's been an interesting and emotional ride and we're definitely going to walk away with lots of experiences and information that will be invaluable to us in Guinea-Bissau.



Our fellow hostages at MTI (several days after the hostage simulation)

How do you see Sabbath? *by Jason*

Why do we have a Sabbath? Though I might never verbalize it this plainly, my American attitude often says, "Sabbath is a time of rest provided for those who need it." Translation: it's a time for the ones who can't keep up with the rest of us ultra-productive never-quit people to claim as an excuse not to do anything for a day. At MTI one of the speakers made this analogy: As tithe is to money, so Sabbath is to time. As I thought about this analogy I went back to the concept of tithe. Why do we tithe? I think that God sees tithe as an acknowledgement of our dependence. We are essentially saying, "I realize that my life is not my own and, knowing that you want the best for me, I trust that you can do more with 90% of my income than I can with all of it."

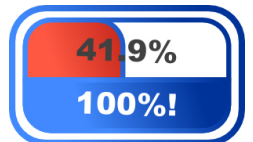
We give tithe because we trust that God's commands are for our good and He will make the 90% enough. Fill the previous sentence in with Sabbath and tithe and see if it still sounds true. *We give Sabbath because we trust God's commands are for our good and He will make six days a week enough.* I am struggling with that, because my actions and thoughts most Sundays (or whatever day of the week Sabbath is) do not reflect the belief that a day each week spent recharging and drawing closer to God is a better use of time than a seventh workday.

Please pray for Emily and I to honor God as we begin to reestablish patterns in scheduling when we get back to Bissau. We are Christ-followers first and missionary workers second, but that priority is easy to forget when so many things to do to help people are in front of you!

Support Raising *by Emily*

Exciting news! We've been so blessed by you guys and we are pleased to report that our one-time giving needs are totally covered! That means that we have received all of the money required for training, plane tickets, and equipment to take over to Africa. Thank you, thank you, thank you! The rest of the money that is sent to our account before we leave will help us a lot because it will be divided toward our monthly support needs which have to be committed before we'll be released to go.

More good news – we are currently at over 40% of the monthly support that we need to have pledged before we can head to back to Guinea-Bissau. Thank you so much to those of you who have committed to our monthly financial support team! If you are interested in being a part of our support team or if you would like more info please let us know. Also if you want to track the progress of our funding you can always check out our website – www.jasonandemilyatkins.com



Jason & Emily

For the ministry of:

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Serving with Youth for Christ / Guinea-Bissau, Africa

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