

Jason & Emily Atkins

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau

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We're back in Guinea-Bissau! *by Emily*

You don't know how long I've been waiting to say that! We left the States before the crack of dawn June 3 and we arrived safe and sound with all of our luggage on the June 7. It was a crazy trip – by plane, by boat, and by car – and we were ready for a long shower and a serious nap when we arrived.

All of the people here at the Youth Center have been so excited to see us, and everyone has been telling us how “strong” (aka fat) we are (which is a pretty big compliment here). We've had a great time meeting new babies and catching up with old friends. It's really exciting for us to see how the programs that we started have kept going while we were gone and we've got some ideas for new ones.

The next month will be a time of evaluation for us. We will be spending a lot of time with Jack and Polly transitioning into our new role as full-time YFC missionaries. We are jumping back into some of the projects that we worked on last time and starting some new ones. Because of that, we're not quite sure how our time will be divided between all of it yet, and it will take some adjustments to get a good pace established.

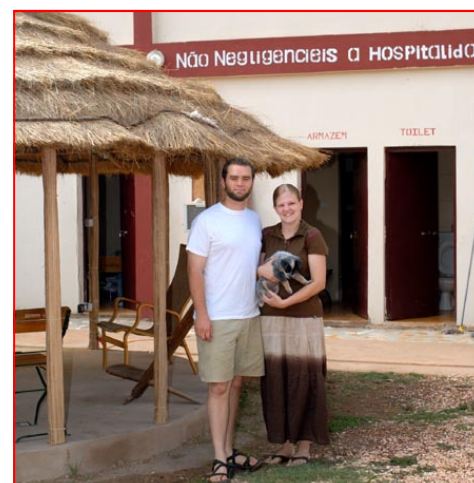
One huge positive is that our Portuguese Creole (the language they speak here) is coming back to us quickly. We were practicing a lot over the past year while we were in the States, and the practice is paying off!

We've been posting pictures and stories on our blogs so don't forget to check them out. jasonpatkins.blogspot.com emilymarieatkins.blogspot.com

Pray for Guinea-Bissau on June 28

In our past newsletters we've talked a little bit about the crazy political situation here. More people were assassinated last week by the military so right now the Prime Minister and several other important political people are in Portugal. Elections are scheduled for June 28, and the campaign is going full force. There are twelve people running for president and each one is promising peace. Guinea-Bissau is made up of many different ethnic groups some of which are Muslim and others are Animist (idol worship) and election time tends to bring out all of the tensions between ethnic groups and religions.

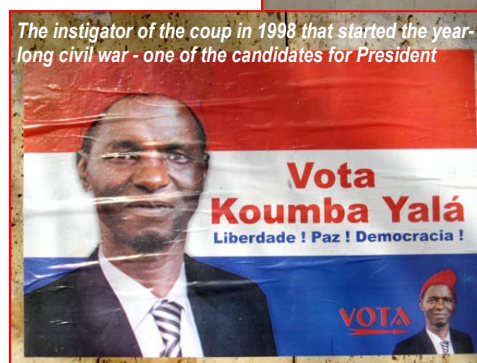
We have no idea how it will all turn out, but God does. Please continue to pray with us that these elections will be a positive change for Bissau, and that after the elections people will accept the results and the country will move forward.

The Chacos are back home in Africa at last!



A few campaign posters at the post office.



The instigator of the coup in 1998 that started the year-long civil war - one of the candidates for President

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Jason & Emily Atkins

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