August 2009





# Jason & Emily Atkins

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## Pile of Treasure by Jason

The shipping container holding the block maker and lots of other stuff is getting close to Bissau! We hope to have it in the next couple of weeks, so we have begun planning in earnest for the building that will hold the machine shop and house the block maker at night.

This month I was able to find a junk yard (the only one I've heard of in the country) and after a lot of looking around, I found a good piece of steel to make into a welding table for the shop! Thick steel isn't usually available here (more than 1/4"), so I was delighted to find this 840 lb monstrosity! The junk yard has a lot of junk, but as I looked around I also saw a lot of potential in the mountains of rusty steel. We're hoping to be able to build machines to help with many different aspects of rural farming. It put me in mind of a "Third World" Junk Yard Wars, for any of you that have seen the show. Please pray with us for the container to be cleared from customs smoothly and for safety in the shop, even while we're still building it.

You can check on the plans and progress of the shop on our website at www.jasonandemilyatkins.com/projects/shop/



Perusing the inventory. So much junk, so little time!



The manly 840lb steel welding table in all it's glory.

Skype-ing In by Emily

Every year in the last week of July, Jason and I know exactly where we're going to be - in a little town named Romeo, Michigan, sleeping in dorms with lots of middle and high school students, running around like crazy and making more space for Jesus. Simpson Park Camp is one of our favorite places in the whole world. There's something amazing about taking a week of your life and totally and completely pouring into other people, and that's what Jason and I have had the opportunity to do as counselors in the youth program the past eight years.

This year we were not able to be there, and I think I drove Jason crazy telling him every few hours exactly what was happening right at that moment at camp. About halfway through the week my Dad called us and asked if there was anyway that we could do a video Skype call during one of the services to say "Hi." We did and it worked out great! We were praying for everyone a lot that week and it was really fun to feel like we were part of the whole thing!



Some of the youth worshiping during a morning service at Simpson Park Camp.

For the ministry of: **Jason & Emily Atkins** Account: 30115 Serving with Youth for Christ / Guinea-Bissau, Africa **Donation Information:** Check # Amount

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## Connecting with Ajuda Bajuda. by Emily

Last month I told you guys about our exciting new women's ministry – Ajuda Bajuda. Usually fun and challenging don't go together in the world of Emily, but I have to say that this women's ministry has been both. The best parts have been the opportunities to get to know the women. Sitting and praying with them in their language, hearing them pour out their hearts to God – I love being a part of it!

This month I wanted to let you guys know about the ways that you can be a part of Ajuda Bajuda too.

#### Prayer

Every week at our Thursday meetings the women give prayer requests and starting next week I am going to be emailing those prayer requests to our prayer team. If you would like be a part of the prayer team and receive those emails please go to our website and sign up – www.AjudaBajuda.com/prayer

### Become an Ajuda Bajuda Partner

The rings and bags that we make and sell in the US are mostly sold through people volunteering to have a "Touch the World" party. We have lots of ideas for parties online and they are really fun. There's no pressure to sell everything, but most of it pretty much sells itself! If you are interested or have any questions please send me an email at <u>ajudabajuda@gmail.com</u> and we will get you set up!!!!

## **Donate Jewelry**

The main way that we've been raising money to get Ajuda Bajuda off the ground is by having jewelry sales. Lots of different women from the US have donated new and used jewelry to be sold here. There aren't very many places to buy jewelry that's not going to fall apart in a week here, so we've been able to find lots of women who love the opportunity to get something new. If you have jewelry that you don't wear anymore and would like to donate to be sold here please send it to Jason's mom: Marilee Atkins, 6320 Bowers Rd, Imlay City, MI 48444. She's going to collect it for us until the next container or person comes out.

Anything gold or silver is really valuable here, but they love costume jewelry too. Earrings of all shapes and sizes and hard bangle bracelets sell like crazy!



Jewelry for sale



Interested customers at an Ajuda Bajuda jewelry sale.

## Taberna di Vida (Store of Life) by Jason

This month we were able to install the solar cell phone charging station in the prototype Store of Life. The system uses power from a solar panel to charge up to 40 cell phones at a time. Cell phones are the primary method of communication in Guinea-Bissau, as almost no land lines were ever installed. Almost everyone in cities of any size has a cell phone. However, most of them don't have power in their house, so many places offer charging as a service, about 35 to 40 cents a charge. If the system proves to be robust, its income will be a big boost for the Store being able to support Pastor Carlos and his family!



Installing a cell phone charging station in the rain

Jason + Bruly