



Jason & Emily Atkins

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau

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Fifteen Minutes of Creole Calisthenics in the Morning by Emily

The Armor of God, the fruits of the Spirit, the Hebrew names for God – these are a few of the topics that I’ve been talking about in our morning staff meetings. Everyday the staff of the Youth Center (about 25 people) meets for a time of singing, prayer, and a little devotional thought for the day. About a month ago Ze Augusto (the National Director of YFC Guinea-Bissau) asked me if I would take charge of those meetings. At first I was a little nervous, because about 30 people come each morning and it’s all in Creole, but I decided to do it and I’m so glad that I did!



The morning staff circle

Other people lead the singing (that’s a good thing...) then I’ve been leading about ten minutes of prayer for different things and giving a five minute devotional. It’s been a really fun way to stretch my Creole a little each day and to share things that God’s been putting on my heart. Several of the people who work at the Youth Center have been Christians for less than five years and don’t have a lot of knowledge of the Bible, so it’s been fun to see people learn things for the first time that I had the privilege of learning in Sunday school growing up.

About two weeks ago a student that came to class early and was sitting on the sidelines during the devotional thought for the day decided to give his life to Christ. He heard me talking about the armor of God and standing strong against the attacks of Satan and he decided that he wanted to know more about the God that I was speaking about. (Not really a traditional salvation message, but God works in all kinds of ways!!!) He’s been coming back every day for discipleship and he’s already growing a ton. I wrote all about it in my blog. It’s a cool story, so if you get a chance you should check it out: www.emilymarieatkins.blogspot.com

So far Jason is still waiting patiently ☺ by Emily

The shipping container full of tools and the block maker for the shop that Jason’s planning to set up here has arrived in Bissau, but it’s currently still in customs. In order to get it out we have to get a document signed by people from two different offices of the customs department, which doesn’t *sound* hard, but it is! We’re hoping that we’ll have some pictures of a triumphant Jason hugging some silly machine straight from the container in the next newsletter, but for now at least we know it’s not lost at sea!



Waiting for container to arrive. Not yet!

Health Update by Emily

Last month we shared that we’ve been struggling with our health recently. We were feeling pretty discouraged at the time. You guys must’ve started praying because we haven’t been sick since we sent that letter out! Praise the Lord! We’ve been checking stuff off of our to-do lists left and right! Thank you so much!

continued...

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Thank You for all of the ways that you make it possible for us to help others here in Guinea-Bissau!

Baby Clothes by Emily

One of the women in my Tuesday night women’s Bible study recently had a huge challenge laid in her lap in the form of a tiny baby. Her daughter in law died in childbirth (during a cesarean). There aren’t any other Christians in her family who can take the baby, and the girl’s family flat out doesn’t want the responsibility. Now this grandmother who has already raised her children is back to square one with a tiny little boy depending on her.



Helping feed three-week-old baby Moses



Some of the little clothes drying outside - our clothes line has never been this cute before!

Also, one of our neighbors who became a Christian about a year ago is a widow with six children. Her youngest child is a cutie and she’s going to turn one next week. Her mother works hard but feeding and clothing six kids is a huge task.

Thanks to your support I was able to go to the market and buy lots of cute little outfits to give to the little girl for her birthday and the grandmother with the newborn. I was also able to buy some formula and a few other necessities.

Let there be light! by Jason

This month I had the opportunity to spend a couple of weekends at the Teen Challenge facility that is in Quinhamel, which is a city about an hour northwest of Bissau. The facility is run by a Guinean as a home for people with mental disabilities. Many of them have problems now as a result of previous drug addictions, others for various other reasons including several widows who have been unable to cope with the loss of their spouse. The leadership there does a great job and we were glad to be able to come alongside them and give a helping hand!



While the guys were working Emily was hanging out with some of the women who live at the rehab facility.

Our teammates Wade and Katie had a supporter donate money to do some improvements at the Teen Challenge (Desafio Jovem) facility. The facility was looking a little grungy and didn’t have any working electrical. So, we took some bright new paint, a small generator, and the supplies to wire some lights up to them. We worked for a pair of Saturdays, several of our Guinean friends came along and painted while Wade and I wired up the lighting. We got to see several people baptized in the nearby river the first week and were able to have a service with them the second, in the middle of which the lights turned on for the first time to lots of clapping! Thanks for enabling us be here and giving us the opportunity to bless other people that are also working to make a difference in Guinea-Bissau!



Painting the walls to brighten it up



Let there be light!

Chowing Down with some Missionaries from the Village

by Emily

One of the advantages of living in the capital city is the shopping. Don’t get me wrong, our downtown is no Walmart, but we do have more than one store. You can buy butter, a form of oatmeal, carrots, and many other things that are not found in most of the villages of Guinea-Bissau. Because of this we often get to entertain our missionary friends when they come in from the interior to restock.



Jason, Andre, Gilson, and Lialton eating some tasty fish

This last month some of our Brazilian friends sent their husbands into town for the weekend with some lengthy lists. We got the chance to put them up for the night and make them some good food. Thank you so much for supporting us so that we can encourage others!!!!

Jason + Emily