



Jason & Emily Atkins

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau

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Our Village Visit *by Emily*

Where can you take showers from a bucket, kill and pluck dinner yourself, get bit by a thousand mosquitoes, hear donkeys braying for miles, eat dinner at 9:30 when you're half asleep, see more stars than you ever imagined *and* have a great time? Sinchan Botchi!!!! This month we spent a week in the village with some missionary friends of ours, Gilson and Rosania. We went for the birthday party of their little girl, Stephanie, who just turned one and we stayed for a few extra days to help them out. We brought our dog, Sydney, with us and she loved the village.



Our Brazilian friends: Gilson, Rosania, Stephanie, and Nicole



Rosania, Stephanie, and I
at the birthday party



The birthday girl!



Nicole helped me make
some chocolate pudding

Living as a missionary in the village can get pretty lonely and life out there is a lot more work than life in Bissau. We've been out to Sinchan Botchi several times before and whenever we go out there we always try to find ways to pitch in. This time I did tons of cooking, giving Rosania some extra time to play with the girls and catch up on work at their clinic (she's an OBGYN nurse). Jason helped Gilson out with tons of odd jobs and had a great time working with his hands instead of just his head for a change.

Sinchan Botchi is a little Muslim village deep in the interior of Guinea-Bissau. The people are welcoming and they're grateful for the clinic and school that the church has put there. Even though life moves slowly and nothing changes very fast the little church out there is growing. They have a church service on Sunday mornings which is about 40 people, about 2/3s children. Gilson and Rosania also have a Bible study group that meets at their house on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday nights with about 25 people who come regularly. Most of them are teenagers, but there are a few married women and one whole family.



Jason's first time translating a sermon.



Trying to get the fire to
catch on the charcoal



Sydney on a self guided safari
through the lemon grass



A Guinean couple standing in front of
a typical house out in Sinchan Botchi

continued...

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We've learned from other times when we've gone out there that they always love to have their visitors teach in the services. On Sunday morning Wade preached in English and Jason translated into Creole. It was Jason's first time to translate a sermon and he did a great job. On Sunday afternoon they asked me if I would speak at the Sunday night Bible study. I had expected that they might and since I'm not a huge one for "surprise, you're preaching in 10 minutes" I had made sure to have a few things ready before we left Bissau. After the service I was SO excited because I preached in Creole for 20 minutes without stopping because I forgot a word or forgetting a single thing I wanted to say. My Creole isn't usually quite that fluent so I was dancing around the house praising God for giving me the words so easily.



Jason the handyman



Adjusting the microscopes they use in the clinic



Playing with Nicole and Stephanie at our house



**Back at our house fixing
Gilson's computer**

After we got back from Sinchan Botchi, Gilson and Rosania came to our house for a week to get a few things done in Bissau. Jason helped Gilson pick out some new solar panels for their house and clinic and did some computer repair. Both girls loved playing with the dog and I loved having little Stephanie crawling around.

Duplication Station *by Jason*

One of my necessary but slightly tedious jobs here at the youth center has been to write/modify/train on a database I wrote for our class registrations. With several hundred students signing up for classes each month, sometimes six months in advance, the spreadsheets they were using to keep track of the students just weren't cutting it. (Copy/paste errors led to several classes with 2x as many students as chairs). Anyway, keeping track of all of it and the accounting backend that it affected was becoming a difficult task. After a lot of work, the database has been tweaked and is now (15,000 receipts later) working great!



Giving a few lessons to Eugenia on how to use the music school's new registration database

There is a music school working here in the center in partnership with YFC, and as they're in their second semester they're starting to run into some of the same problems we solved with the database. It was really cool to be able to set them up this month with a database just like the one I'd already worked so hard on for the center so they could benefit from our growing pains! ☺

The Container is Here *by Emily*

Well, actually it isn't.... It's in Bissau at the port. It's been in Bissau for more than a month so we were sure that by the time we needed to send out this newsletter we would have some exciting pictures. However, due to an ever mounting pile of red tape, pictures of us joyously dancing in front of our long awaited container will have to wait until December (hopefully December).

Jaxon + Emily

Calling all Christmas Cards!

If you usually send out a Christmas card or a family picture around this time of year we would love to get one! (hint hint, he-he) You can send it to Youth for Christ with our name on it and they will send it to us, or you can send it directly to us in Africa:

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We can't wait to see your smiling faces all bundled up in sweaters!