

For the Son of Man
came to seek and to save
that which was lost.
Luke 19.10

December 2009

Jason & Emily Atkins



Ministering in Guinea-Bissau

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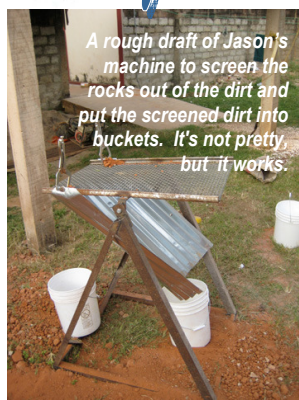
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The Container is Really here!!!!

by Emily



Dirt delivery



A rough draft of Jason's machine to screen the rocks out of the dirt and put the screened dirt into buckets. It's not pretty, but it works.



Mixing up the dough for the block machine



Feeding the machine

Wow, it feels so good to say that! Hehe! Most of the things that we had been waiting for in the container are related to the machine shop Jason is building here in Bissau, so you would think that Jason would be writing about how excited he is to finally have all of it. The problem with that is that Jason has been spending so much time running around like crazy doing things with all of the new stuff that he has hardly sat down at his computer at all. I've made sure to get a few pictures of his antics, so in case you think that I'm making it all up and the container can't possibly have arrived yet, I have proof!!!! Hehe!

The equipment and materials that came over in the container will be a big blessing for us and for Guinea-Bissau. Thanks again to everyone who was involved!!!



Crankin' em out and stackin' em up

It's not Hollywood, but it's a start

by Emily



Recording Abel dancing in the river

West Africa is a very musical society and thanks to the internet, music videos are becoming really popular here in Bissau. The only problem with that is that most music videos widely available on the internet are, well, trash... Several talented Guinean Christian songwriters have decided that making music videos of their Christian songs will influence youth culture in Guinea-Bissau and give the young people something worthwhile to spend their time thinking about. Everybody here loves watching music videos over and over and since the songs are written in Creole and other African languages the artists are hoping not only to encourage Christians, but to spread the gospel.

Jason's been helping out one of our friends, Abel, with the recording and editing of one of the first Christian music videos in Guinea-Bissau.

continued...

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Keeping in Touch

by Emily

Just because we're in Africa doesn't mean we don't want to hear from you! We've got lots of ways to keep in touch, so we thought we'd let you know about them!

Email: The easiest way to get a hold of us is by email: jasonpatkins@gmail.com or emilymarieatkins@gmail.com

Phone: The coolest way is our Skype phone number. When we were in the States Jason found a great deal on a phone that looks like a cell phone and works over wifi. It's meant to be used with Skype. Through Skype we signed up for a US phone number, so if you call 810.882.1514 it will be a US call for you and the phone that is sitting on the desk next to me will ring!!!! How cool is that!?!?!?

Skype: We also have Skype accounts for chatting computer to computer. Our user names are: [jasonpatkins](#) and [emilymarieatkins](#)

Blogs: To get a picture of what life is like over here check out our blogs: jasonpatkins.blogspot.com or emilymarieatkins.blogspot.com

Web: We're always updating the info on our website and you can stay up on the latest happenings on our home page www.JasonandEmilyAtkins.com

Moving past "WordArt"

by Jason



One student's CD cover design. Not bad for a first try!

This month I test-taught a new class in the Computer School. The class was about a free graphic design program, and the students really seemed to like it! It's a little more complicated than our normal Office software classes, so we only took grads, but we had a great time. I have seen a lot of basic designs that were obviously from novice WordArt users all over the country (including a rainbow colored patch of text on an official government document), so it was fun to be able to give the students some tools to do some less cookie-cutter design work. There are a lot of CD covers, logos, and various other things to design in Bissau, and now we have a batch of students who at least have some basic abilities in that area.

Dakar Holidays

by Emily



Me, Polly, and Katie on our way out to go shopping



Me and Jase on the boat on the way up



Selling Ajuda Bajuda rings



Learning how to make rings

Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, even green bean casserole – we had it all this Thanksgiving! Our teammates Jack and Polly Wilson hosted the YFC West Africa missionary team for a Thanksgiving get together. Since they live in Dakar, Senegal, we had to do some traveling to get there, by car and by boat, but it was worth it to have time to dream, plan, and eat together as a team. Dakar is a giant city so Katie and I made sure to set aside some time for Christmas shopping while we were up there.

When we weren't cooking, eating, or shopping, Jason and I had some great ministry planning sessions with Jack and Polly. It was nice for us to be able to talk through tons of ideas for what our ministry will look like in 2010 and to plan what it will take for us to get there. Polly and I had some craft time where I finally learned how to make the Ajuda Bajuda rings and I loved it! Great friends, new crafting skills, and planning for the future, what could be better?

Jason + Emily