



Jason & Emily Atkins

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The Block-Heads by Jason

We've come a long way in our first couple of months with the block making machine! We've found a good source for the right kind of dirt, learned how to make buildings in a new way, and made about 12,000 4"x6"x12" blocks! Our first test project was a small medical building for basic wound treatment here at the youth center. Then, we went out to Mansoa to produce blocks for the meeting pavilion at the new agricultural and discipleship center that our teammates the McHargues are pioneering. Then, we came back to Bissau and set to work building our shop. So far we've laid about 5,000 blocks, with another 3,000 ready to be laid.

Please pray for us as the next several months will be very busy ones. The rainy season will start in mid-May, and all construction work outside will stop. By then, all of our various building projects will need to be roofed and plastered on the outside or the rain storms will turn them back into a big pile of mud. We have the shop to complete, it's second story that will be a classroom, and a big house at the base in Mansoa for McHargues to move into. When everything is working perfectly we can make about 1,000 blocks a day, and we still need to make and lay another 5,000 blocks on the shop's second story and at least 20,000 more for the house in Mansoa. We have our work cut out for us, but great equipment, a team that's learning, and a big God!



From finishing the foundation near midnight, to a pile of bricks, to actual walls, the new shop at the Youth Center is going up!

Getting Ready for an Empty Nest by Emily

Starting in May Ajuda Bajuda will have an empty nest here in Bissau. The goal of the project is that after about year of work and training each woman would have enough money saved in her matching fund to start her own business. This ministry was started last March, so this is our first group of women to complete the program.

Each of the 6 women that I'm currently working with are getting their own businesses going and by the end of April they'll all be on their own. It's a super-exciting time for all of us and a super-busy time for me! In addition to the weekly training meetings and managing all of the production, I've started meeting with each woman individually to work on their business plans. Most of the women are planning on using their savings money to open little shops—some selling food, one selling used clothes, one selling cement by a construction company, and another selling hair extensions and hair braiding services.

Polly is hoping to get a group of women going in Dakar this summer and then I might start another group here in Bissau in 2011. In the mean time I'm going to be working with the English department developing a teacher training program to crank out some more English teachers.

continued...



Me and Virginia Nurmi with four of the women of Ajuda Bajuda at one of our weekly training meetings.

For the ministry of:

Jason & Emily Atkins

Account: 30115

Serving with Youth for Christ / Guinea-Bissau, Africa

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You Guys Rock! *by Emily*

- Thank you so much for your prayers for us over the past year! God was at work in us and in this country and we are overwhelmingly grateful to be here. As I look back over this past year I can see God's hand moving in response to your prayers again and again and again and again!
- Thank you for praying for our training and preparation as we got ready to come back here.
- Thank you for praying for our fundraising. We know that people are making big sacrifices for us to be here, and we appreciate it!
- Thank you for all of the times you've prayed for our safe travels. We haven't had any major problems or a single lost bag yet!
- Thank you for praying for peace in this country after the presidential assassination and all of the other assassinations that followed closely behind it.
- Thank you for praying for our health in August when we were both sick for a whole month. God answered your prayers and it was so good to get back on our feet again!
- Thank you for praying for the shipping container. We've been grateful for the tools that came over in it every day since November when we finally cracked it open!
- Thank you for praying for our language acquisition. God has been blessing us so much and increasing our understanding and speaking daily.
- Thank you for praying for us the day that Sydney (our dog) broke her leg and Jason got in the motorcycle accident. God's hand was in so many details that day, protecting both of them. Sydney's leg is doing great and Jason's shoulder is already almost fully recovered.
- Thank you for praying for our team's ministry. People are coming to Christ, getting healed, and God's given us so many ways to come alongside the church in Guinea-Bissau to strengthen and encourage the Christians here.

I could go on and on talking about all of the ways that your prayers have blessed us and our ministry! When we say that we can't do it without you we mean it!!

If you would like to get our prayer updates you can sign up on our website: www.JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/contact or you can send me an email: EmilyMarieAtkins@gmail.com and I'll add you to the list.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason + Emily". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.