



## Jason & Emily Atkins

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### Baby Atkins by Emily

We're pretty terrible at keeping secrets, so many of you know already, but in case you haven't heard, we're pregnant. We're due in the end of September and we couldn't be happier. So far everything is going great! I'm headed home in the beginning of April for my sister Rachel's wedding. I'm really excited for her and I have the added bonus of getting to see a doctor while I'm home. If everything is going well then I'm planning on heading back here for a few more months. After that Jason and I will go home in July to have the baby in the States.



Me at six weeks.



Our baby's first picture. If you look at the dark circle near the top (just on top of the really bright spot) the baby is laying down on the bottom of that circle. If you look from left to right you can see the round head and then the round body.



Me at 13 weeks, not a real belly yet, but it's starting.

Because this baby has pretty good timing we are going to be at Simpson Park Camp this year. I won't be counseling in the youth program since I'll be eight months pregnant, but I think that Jason will be. If you're going to be there we can't wait to see you!!!

*Emily*

### A note from our Teammates by Katie McHargue

I know this is a little out of the ordinary, however, last month while talking with our missionary support team, Paul and Virginia Nurni, they asked me the question, "how is your relationship going with Jason and Emily Atkins?" I answered, enthusiastically, "I do not know how we would ever survive without them!" I went on to tell them just how much Jason and Emily do for my family all of the time, so that our work here is more efficient, and so that our lives here are more satisfying. So, I asked Jason and Emily if I might take the time to thank you, the people who have sent them here by sacrificially giving, because I am one of the people who benefits on a regular basis!



Our teammates here in Guinea-Bissau, the McHargue Family

continued...

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My husband Wade and I are a part of the YFC team of Americans that God has put together to help further His Kingdom in Guinea Bissau, and ultimately, we believe all of West Africa. We are what you would call, more typical missionaries, and have strong evangelistic callings. Wade and I are in the process of building a second Youth For Christ school in Guinea Bissau, in a different region of the country, where we believe God is calling us to disciple those who are called to evangelize the Muslim world of West Africa, as well as those Animists which have yet to be reached. This sounds so exciting, and it is, really... however, I have to let you in on a little secret... it could not be happening without the behind the scenes, inglorious, servant hearted work of Jason and Emily.

Wade and I are what you might call, "techno- challenged". I could share with you all of the computer horror stories we have endured over the last ten months, but I will spare you the details, they all have the same happy ending...Jason saved the day! Countless times, He has served our family without any expectation of anything in return, just knowing that God has called him here to help in this very technical way! How truly wonderful!!! How many times has Emily been a very real Jesus with skin on to me as I have struggled to live in a new culture and language and raise my three children? We have cried together, prayed together, and laughed hard together. We even get up at the crack of dawn together three days a week to work out and to pray... she is such a servant hearted young woman! When Wade and I need a date night, who do we call? Jason and Emily! They have endeared themselves to our children in a very precious way, and we thank God for their invaluable ministry in their lives!



Jason headed out with the block maker to help Wade with construction in Mansoa



Jason translating for Wade into Creole - harder than it looks, hehe



Jason showing Abby how the plasma cutter works - pretty sweet field trip.

Our new center in Mansoa is being built by the bricks which Jason has had a hand in making. Jason is constantly coming up with new innovative ideas for how to improve the quality of our lives here in Africa, and the lives of those we are striving to reach. He is also a phenomenal problem solver. When doing construction in a third world country, we have found that you need, often times to think outside the box a bit. Either there are no machines to do what you need to get done, or no electricity or no water when you need it, so Wade is constantly dealing with stresses you would not ordinarily have to deal with, unless of course you lived here. Praise the Lord for Jason thinking of ways around each problem. Today I went with the kids for a bit of a homeschooling field trip with "Uncle Jason." He was hand making a water tower for our property in Mansoa.



Putting the legs on the water tower Jason built for Mansoa



Jason welding up the water tower

Why? Because for the last three months Wade has had to hand draw water from a nearby river and then drive it to the construction site each day, several times a day. Now that we are in the hot season, the water is all dried up. We found a man who is willing to let us get water from his well, but it is so time consuming. Jason thought of the solution of building a water storage tank which will hold large amounts of water and can be pumped out with a hose. He is literally cutting the steel and welding the frames together (and doing it all at the same time as when he is juggling a dozen other projects around the center which need his time and expertise.) After that visit with Jason out to the job site I could literally see that some of the stress had come off of Wade's shoulders. Praise God with me for that!

Running a center like the one here in Bissau, or the one in Mansoa, requires so much of the humdrum, behind the scenes kind of work, (like balancing a budget, and getting rid of thousands of viruses on the computer system) that drives people like Wade and I crazy, yet truly, without all of that work, the center would not be able to reach as many people with the message of the cross. Thank you for giving!

I am so glad to have the opportunity to share from my heart how grateful I am for your sacrificial investment into the kingdom of God in sending the Atkins to Guinea Bissau! God bless you!!!!

-Katie McHargue