

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau
Caxia Postal 834
Bissau, Guinea Bissau
810.882.1514
www.jasonandemilyatkins.com
jasonpatkins@gmail.com
emilymarieatkins@gmail.com



Jason, Emily & Savannah Atkins

Help Wanted by Emily

Have you ever wanted to be famous? To be a huge help to a missionary in need? To influence the lives of thousands of people who are hungry to learn around the world? Well, if you're an English speaker, I've got the opportunity of a lifetime for you. ☺

When our English curriculum was originally written we used stories and conversations and poems from lots of books that we own here at the Youth Center. The problem with that is that the curriculum has been such a success, that Youth for Christ programs in different countries around the world have been contacting us to see if they can use our curriculum to start outreach English classes of their own. Obviously, in order to do this we need to take out all of the copyrighted materials and replace them with things we have written ourselves.

Little by little over the past two years I've been fixing bugs and tweaking the student and teacher materials in hundreds of ways to get them ready for mass production. There are five levels and each level is a 60 day course, so it's been a monumental task and I'm starting to feel a little bit buried ☺ That's where you come in. If you're thinking to yourself, "Hey, I could write a conversation between two people about traveling in Europe" or "Hey, I'd love to write a little newspaper article about a mysterious crime" please let me know! I'll send you some vocabulary words and sayings for your very own story!

If you're interested at all, but you're feeling overwhelmed – don't be. It's not as hard as you might think. Check out the silly poem I wrote in the box on the right to use the idioms "all the rage", "drive me up the wall", "all Greek to me", and "a steal".

If you don't like rhyming, don't worry! We also need conversations, letters, short stories, newspaper articles and pretty much anything that anyone might be interested in doing. So, if you want to spend half an hour becoming a world famous author email me ASAP (EmilyMarieAtkins@gmail.com) and I'll put you to work!

continued...



Terrible, Horrible, Silly Shoes by Emily Atkins

*These new high-heeled shoes are fantastic.
All the rage - that's what everyone thinks.*

*But in truth, I think they're too drastic.
They're ugly, they're painful, they stink.*

*When I wear them I feel like a fool.
They drive me right up the wall.*

*It's all Greek to me why they're cool.
I don't understand it at all!*

*I prefer shoes made of plastic.
They're a steal, they're stylish, they're neat.*

*That's why I'm not enthusiastic
about the new high-heeled shoes on my feet.*

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Big Picture Youth Center by Jason

While our various projects progress, it's easy for me to get lost in the details of network wiring, welding, painting, and fixing machines. I love working on the stuff I get to work on, but sometimes I get worn out if I don't step back and take a look at the big picture. The school is making a big difference, touching a lot of lives, and we're blessed to be able to be involved in it.

The geek in me is super excited about the solar project for the sake of the project itself. Not many people get a chance to design and install a system this big! More than a ton of solar panels, a ton of batteries, half a ton of copper, and enough power to run a whole school! Ar ar ar arrr!!! As much fun as the project itself is though, its purpose is more important. The project is going to help stabilize the finances of one of the very few self supporting outreach projects in Guinea-Bissau. By knocking out about \$800 of our \$6,000 budget each month (which pays all of the staff, maintains the network, facilities, two generators, a truck, etc.) we'll give the center a large amount of breathing room – which will be a relief from barely keeping its head above water each month! The idea that the school will live on after all of the Americans leave is a novel one in this part of the world, and I'm truly proud to be a part of it.

YFC in Guinea-Bissau is doing some awesome stuff. Our English school is widely recognized as the best in the country. The different departments of the school (English/French/Computers) had 812 students coming through every day last month! Our classes are powerful outreach tools, clearly presenting the Gospel as part of the course material, giving our students an opportunity to understand what Christ has done for them. I'm glad to be here at this time, adding our contribution to what all of the missionaries, workers, and supporters that have come before us have built. Please continue to pray for what God will do through YFC in Guinea-Bissau!

Power by Emily

Ironically, as we're getting closer and closer to getting the solar system up and running to replace the generator, the generator itself has been having tons of problems. This is making my husband slightly crazy because he hasn't been able to use the drill press or the big welder or several other tools that would make the solar installation go much faster. He has, however, been forging ahead, using his Atkins ingenuity, and finding lots of long ways to accomplish simple tasks.

The most exciting developments of the past month were the two giant doors nearly finished and installed on the shop; and the room to hold the batteries, chargers, inverters, and all of the other hardware that connects to the solar panels being under construction!

Jason has also been installing video cameras and getting supports made for the fencing because he wants to get the security system up and running before the first panel is installed.

This next month will be some of the most complicated and dangerous work because Jason will be wiring up the massive battery bank to the powerful solar controllers, and connecting the generators to the whole thing to top it off. Please pray for wisdom and safety for him and our real electrician, Djombo.

Support by Emily

I don't think I can say enough times how blessed we have been by your generosity. We had another new family join our monthly support team this month and we are getting closer and closer to being 100% funded. If you're interested in giving a special gift or joining our monthly support team, you can send a check with the form on the bottom of this letter or you can click on the link of the bottom of our homepage: www.JasonandEmilyAtkins.com.



Jason and Nilton moving the sheet metal barn door into place

After a coat of rust proofing primer the doors aren't looking too shabby. Once we get the red paint on them and the hardware installed they'll be fabulous



Building a secure room off the ground using the pillars of the solar support structure

The walls are going up

Planning session for the spacing of the vents in the walls of the new solar controller room



Testing the spacing on the prototype mount for the solar panels



Jason welding some rebar to attach to the solar mounts. I was happy when he finished and was back on the ground

Jason + Emily