

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau
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Jason, Emily & Savannah Atkins

TRAVEL UPDATE

The transitional government in Guinea-Bissau has been in place for a few months, international peacekeeping troops are deployed, and no new unrest has occurred in the meantime. Trusting in God's protection, we're flying back on September 17th. Please keep us in your prayers!

SHOP EXPANSION by Jason

Early in our time in Guinea-Bissau we were privileged to ride along as the local church moved a new Guinean missionary out to an island named Suga, a people that hadn't heard the Gospel. The local church had started a school on a central island in the archipelago, Galinha, where kids from Suga and the other surrounding islands were attending school. There was no public school for these kids before the church started a school there.

We listened as the village chief on Suga thanked the church workers for the project they had done to help the island kids. He told them they were free to put their missionary in his community, to preach, to teach his kids, and to show the Jesus film – because he knew that the church cared about him and his people. He knew it because the church had come to take care of their needs. Although Emily and I were only observers on that trip, it drove the point home. The clichéd saying that people don't care what you know until they know that you care, is true.

Christians in Guinea-Bissau have big plans for reaching their fellow countrymen for Christ. Their plans range from evangelism crusades to schools to clean water projects and everything in between. Lots of their plans involve construction, both of buildings and machines. As we've gotten the shop going, word has spread and generally a week doesn't go by without someone new coming to visit us and ask if we can help with their project. The church needs a reliable place it can get construction projects done. In the last several months, two different clean water projects have approached us for help in executing their plans in Guinea-Bissau.

Our plan from the beginning has been to find a few things the shop workers can make and sell to support the shop's expenses, so it's able to fund itself to continue being able to help the church after we leave. We've identified a couple of things we think can be made profitably, our first will be bunk bed frames. As we begin to ramp that project up, our already cramped workshop is going to get even smaller.



The current shop is on the first floor and the library is on the second floor. The addition will only be one story.



The inside of the shop. Jason's built more shelves and gotten all of the tools more organized since this shot, but it's still way too full!



We made this form which is used to make a special kind of cement block by hand.

Continued...

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As more requests for help have come in, I've been surprised at their variety. Since wood is so expensive, Guinea-Bissau's de facto building materials are steel and concrete. Masons are plentiful, and as you can do a lot of concrete work with simple tools, they are largely able to find a way to get done whatever they have to do. Metalworking tools, however, are very difficult to find. Most metal working shops (guys working under a tree) have a broken down welder, an old grinder, a hacksaw, and a sledge hammer. Since most shops are so simple, we get a lot of requests that require more advanced machines to complete, because there's only one other shop in Guinea-Bissau with these kind of tools, and their work is very expensive.

The shop's big purpose from the beginning has been to design and build hand operated machines that can help the small farmers work smarter. Women in the village who grow their own rice spend several hours each day to pound it in a big mortar and pestle to thresh and hull the rice so it is ready to cook. The expansion project will give us the machining capabilities we need to be able to produce these kinds of machines, as well as be able to meet the needs of external projects.

The project we're embarking on will involve several phases. First, we'll build an expansion onto the shop building which will almost double our currently cramped work area. The second phase will be to buy machinery and equipment here in the U.S. Once we've found all of the deals, we can to purchase the equipment we need to outfit the shop with these new capabilities, we'll pack another shipping container and send it over. Once it arrives, we'll set to work installing the new machines and then be off and running!

After calculating the cost of the building expansion, equipment, and shipping, I think it will cost about \$25 per square foot built and equipped. Please pray with us for this funding, and if you feel led to give, the tear-off on the insert can be mailed back with a check. Donations can also be made online at <https://securegive.yfc.net/atinsspecialprojects> or through the "Shop Project" link on our website.

If you are connected in the machining or sheet metal fabrication world and would like to help us look for used equipment, please contact us for a PDF with the list of equipment we're hoping to buy or have donated.

I thank God for the ability to work in such a place and serve the church of Guinea-Bissau. Thank you all for your support.

Jason + Emily



The ends of the bunk beds Jason designed



Reinforcing a broken cement mixer for a church construction project.

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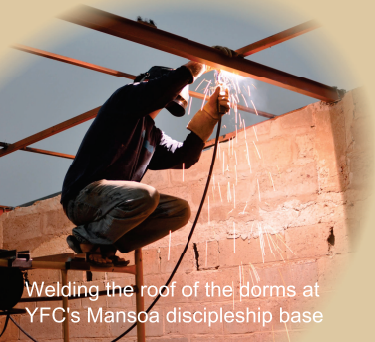
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NEW CREATIONS WORKSHOP

Building What Matters

The shop is doing great work, but we're out of space!



Welding the roof of the dorms at YFC's Mansoa discipleship base

We're looking for partners to sponsor a part of the new wing of the shop. The addition will add much needed space and abilities, some which don't exist anywhere else in the country.

The shop is being used every day for things like supporting clean drinking water projects, church generator repair, vehicle repair, machine fabrication, and building construction.

Yes, I'm interested in giving a gift to help expand the New Creations Workshop in Bissau!

The 820 ft² wing will cost \$25 per square foot once equipped. I'm including my contribution to cover:

ft²

(Mailing instructions on reverse)

Construction Matters!

“ The government has been promising to build a school here for years, but hasn't. The church built a school for our kids. **Christians are welcome to preach here because we know the church cares about us** and does what it says it will do. ”

- Village chief on Suga Island



Island kids studying at the school built and operated by the local church.

Please note "Project #32068" in the memo line of your check and send it in the enclosed return envelope along with the tear off from the bottom of your newsletter so the office can identify your gift.

Donations can also be made online at www.jasonandemilyatkins.com using the "Shop Project" link.