

God so loved that  
He gave...

Jesus!

## Jason, Emily & Savannah Atkins

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau  
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### Things Old and New *by Jason*

The last quarter of 2012 has seen some new developments and some work on old projects as well. First, we received a scouting team from the Budapest Bamako car rally (which now ends in Bissau). I've been asked by the church to translate for the rally in the final leg, so 100 or so cars will be coming through in February. We also were able to connect with the leader of a village well repair ministry, Howard, from Operation Well Found. We have a plan in place now for the shop to be able to provide repair support to the ministry as they replace broken hand-operated well pumps in remote villages. In December we'll also be receiving Richard, an American who is partnering with the Guinean church to set up a drinking water filter factory here. It's nice to be able to put both our technical capabilities in the shop and our experience having lived here for six years to good use to help these projects coming into Guinea-Bissau!

We also resurrected a stalled project, an oldie but a goodie! The block machine has been waiting for about a year for a replacement part to come in the mail. Unfortunately, we haven't received any packages in the mail since February! This month we finally bit the bullet and did what we could to repair the broken part. In the end, it wasn't as difficult as I'd assumed. We made some other improvements to the machine. The rototiller that we use to mix the dirt also needed some attention, so after tuning it back up as well, we were able to turn a big pile of dirt into several hundred blocks. The machine is already being requested for a couple of different church projects, so we're hoping it is ready now to go forth and build!

### Drawing to a Close *by Emily*

As I've looked back over every year since we first came to Guinea-Bissau in 2006, I've had the same thought – wow this year has been so different than what I expected. You'd think after more than six years I'd have a better idea of what's coming, but it's not easy to anticipate coups that force evacuations, pregnancies that end with disappointed hopes, surprise opportunities to partner with cool projects, and open doors to totally different ministries that could only have been orchestrated by God.

At the end of another year we're reminded of how thankful we are to have the opportunity to serve with Youth for Christ in Guinea-Bissau. Thank you for your partnership with us. Thank you for giving so generously. Thank you for your prayers and your encouragement.



Repairing the  
compressed  
earth block  
making  
machine



Collaborating with Howard  
from Operation Well Found



The block making machine cranking out  
compressed earth blocks



Savannah can't get enough  
of the Youth Center's pet gazelle



Celebrating the wedding of a  
coworker with one of my first  
students, Esperanca

*Jason & Emily*

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