



The Atkins Family

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau

www.jasonandemilyatkins.com

jasonpatkins@gmail.com

emilymarieatkins@gmail.com

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY by Jason

During a recent visit to WAVS in Canchungo, we were able to do a little playing with their solar power system. Our shop equipment that had to be taken out there has been sitting for several months, safe from the rain, but unable to be used because their system makes different power than ours, and different than the machines need. Fortunately, with a little bit of work, their system was able to be reconfigured to make power that our equipment can use as well. The change will not be permanent, because it created some difficulty for some of their welders, but will at least give me access to our equipment while their school is on break the next couple of months. After that, the system will have to be switched back, but at least for now we have a window to do several projects that have been waiting for access to our equipment once again. We're grateful to have a few months to put these machines to use, and continue looking forward to the day when we're eventually able to reunite the whole shop under one roof with power that can run everything!

THE RAINY SEASON AND EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA

by Emily

The rainy season in Guinea-Bissau (which begins in mid-May) brings a huge growth of green plants and a world washed clean; but it also brings standing water, breeding mosquitoes, sewage and trash polluting wells, and lots of sickness. This year has been no different with widespread flu and malaria; and many of the hospitals around the country are so full that patients have to bring their own mattresses and lay on them in corridors and hallways to receive medical treatment. Like many of our friends and neighbors we have also been really struggling to stay healthy. The whole country is looking forward to the end of the rain in October.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



The room at the WAVS school in Canchungo that Jason has moved his large shop machines into



Left: One of the welding students at the WAVS school in Canchungo

Below: That pallet jack is really coming in handy getting the shop set up!



Even the drenching downpours of the rainy season can't keep these guys from playing soccer!



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I'm sure you've heard about the terrible outbreak of Ebola infecting so many people in the countries that border Guinea-Bissau. It's the worst ever recorded with over 1,300 people dead since March and fear, panic, and misinformation spreading like wildfire all over west Africa.

The saddest part of the outbreak is that it's not actually that difficult to stop an Ebola epidemic. Because the disease is only passed through direct contact (after the person gets really sick), if hospitals and medical workers have running water, reliable access to things like gloves and bleach, and a good way to get information out, it should be easily stopped. Unfortunately in west Africa those conditions are almost nonexistent.

Several different organizations have set up clinics all across Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone and we're praying every day for the safety of all of the medical workers and the end of this outbreak.

WADE RETURNS by Jason

Our dear friend and former teammate, Wade McHargue, came back to visit the discipleship training school he and his family started in the town of Mansoa while they were here with us several years ago. He was here for two weeks primarily to check on the school's progress, teach classes, and encourage the two Guinean families who are running the school. The school is continuing to grow, and Wade was encouraged to see the progress!



Using the slitter to cut the sheet metal to make the new doors for the discipleship school in Mansoa

We had the opportunity to spend time with Wade while he was here and visit the school with him. Unfortunately, the base's dog (one of our dog, Sydney's, litter) died recently and some town thieves have taken advantage of the dog's absence - stealing, among other things, many of the exterior doors from various buildings during the night! Our shop is now working on some more secure steel doors to replace the stolen wooden ones.

The McHargues are now ministering to the Lakota in South Dakota, in the Pine Ridge Reservation (the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre). Please pray for God's continued presence with Wade and his family as he returns to their ministry among the Lakota!

Jason + Emily



Our intern Widaafa using the band saw to work on the doors for the discipleship school in Mansoa