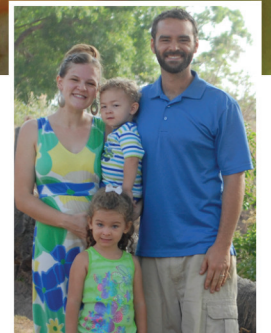




The Atkins Family

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau
www.jasonandemilyatkins.com
jasonpatkins@gmail.com
emilymarieatkins@gmail.com



Being Fruitful in Guinea-Bissau

May 2015



The drinking water filter factory with half of its roof installed

Water Filter Factory Update *by Emily*

Thank you for your prayers for this project. The roof is going on, the kiln is almost finished, and the workers are being trained. Before leaving for the U.S. at the end of June, Jason hopes to finish the roof, complete the ironwork on the kiln built by the Canadian ceramics expert, and repair the hammer mill that punched a hole through its engine block. Without our machine shop, factory production would be on hold until a new mill could be shipped in, but Jason hopes to repair the damage and get a new motor installed by early next week.



Everybody loves playing in the sand!



Savannah stopped by the factory construction site and was impressed by the almost-done kiln.

Three Things You Should Know About The Atkins *by guest writer Chris Collins*

As close friends and housemates of the Atkins, we'd like to introduce ourselves. We are Chris and Holly Collins, Californians who split our time between living stateside and in Guinea-Bissau. Chris works as the executive director of West African Vocational Schools

Continued on page 2

YOUTH FOR CHRIST | PO BOX 4478 | ENGLEWOOD, CO 80155 | 303.843.9000 | INFO@YFC.ORG | WWW.YFC.ORG

Youth For Christ USA is a charter member of Youth for Christ International

Please donate to Youth For Christ today.

Ministry Preference:

JASON & EMILY ATKINS # 30115

☐ A donation today \$ _____

☐ A new monthly commitment of \$ _____ per month

Give Online:

<https://securegive.yfc.net/jeatkins>

For one-time and recurring credit/debit card and electronic fund transfers (EFT).

Please make your check payable to:

Youth For Christ
PO Box 4478
Englewood, CO 80155

Please be sure to indicate the Ministry Preference account on each donation.

Contributions may be tax deductible and are under the control and administration of Youth for Christ USA, Inc. YFC strives for financial integrity and meets the standards of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. When you provide a check for your donation, you authorize YFC to convert your check to an electronic item.

(www.wavschools.org), which supports the school in Guinea-Bissau where Jason runs his shop. Holly is a physical therapist and the global missions director of The Well Community Church in Fresno, California. We've gotten to know the Atkins very well these last few years and we thought it would be worth giving you, the Atkins' partners, a third-party perspective of how your investment in their ministry is helping transform one of the world's smallest and poorest countries. So, here are three things you should know about the Atkins and Guinea-Bissau:

1. Their work isn't easy. If you've ever been weighed down by the 9-to-5 daily grind, imagine doing that in a place where the weather is either ridiculously hot (with no air conditioning) or incredibly muggy with torrential rainfalls; a place where things break down constantly because of an incredible lack of skilled labor, a lot of jerry-rigged "maintenance" jobs, and a huge shortage of tools and parts to make proper repairs; and a place where culture and language barriers and a history of outsiders creating unhealthy dependency leads to constant frustrations (imagine random strangers yelling at you as you walk by, *"Hey, white person, give me a dollar."*). We could keep going, but you get the idea. It's not easy living in Guinea-Bissau, yet somehow the Atkins do an incredible job achieving their goals despite the challenging environment.
2. Their work is important and is making a real difference. Since last fall, Jason has taken on a new role in partnership with the WAVS School to train the instructors and students of the school's welding department. He has been an invaluable asset to the school and has dramatically increased the department's quality and impact. Emily, meanwhile, has continued to keep the house functioning (not an easy task in Guinea-Bissau), raise two kids, and minister to her neighbors and church friends. The skills training they are providing and the healthy relationships they are developing are exactly what Guinea-Bissau needs.
3. Emily's cooking is unreal. To find out what we mean, you'll just have to visit and see for yourself.

Being Fruitful by Emily

Over the past month the phrase "be fruitful" has been on my mind. Maybe it's my ever-growing belly, or the piles of delicious mangoes on every corner, but God has been speaking to me about fruit - being faithful to use my time, talents, and life with extravagant generosity.

When you see an apple tree loaded with apples, the tree isn't thinking about who is going to appreciate the apples that it makes - it's being fruitful because that's how God made it.

A few months ago our pastor asked me to start a weekly women's Bible study. Most weeks there are only three or four of us, but I've been pouring myself into the teaching that I give because God has given me this opportunity to speak His truth into the lives of others. Since the beginning of the year we've had a house full of different guests, and I've been washing sheets, cooking meals, and scrubbing the bathroom, because many times loving people well involves taking care of their physical needs. Sometimes it's as simple as taking time with a neighbor who is worried about a sick kid, a batch of home-made play-dough for Savannah, a special dessert for Jason, a handmade gift for a new baby, or a walk outside to stomp in the mud puddles with Nathaniel.

Does every act of generosity change the world? No. In fact most probably don't. But many of them open the doors to the hearts of the people in my life. And being faithful to do the work that God has given me with all my heart brings joy to me and glory to Him.

I used to think of going out of my way to do extra things for others as a "sacrifice," but God has been showing me that He created me to love people with abandon. Just like that apple tree, I want to be covered with fruit. With the work of my hands, the knowledge in my brain, and the time that I have, I want to fill the bellies and hearts of the people in my life, to the glory and praise of God who blessed me with people to love and the desire to "be fruitful."

Jason + Emily