



The Atkins Family

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau
www.jasonandemilyatkins.com
emilymarieatkins@gmail.com
jatkings@myyfc.org
eatkins@myyfc.org



**WAVS is growing...
...and so is our family!**



*The WAVS vocational school in Canchungo
where our shop is located*



*YFC's machine shop where Jason works
and helps train the WAVS students*



Enjoying fall with a trip to a cider mill

October 2015

A New Phase for WAVS by Jason
God has called us to partner with local church projects to support them, bringing help to the population of Guinea-Bissau in order to show God's love. One of the organizations we're closely partnered with is WAVS, where the YFC workshop is located. WAVS has operated their only location in Guinea-Bissau, a vocational school in Canchungo, for eight years. For the past two years, we've been helping WAVS think about their next big step, which is an ambitious expansion to a second campus in Bissau. The school in Canchungo is heavily subsidized by donations from the U.S., partially because of the relatively small number of students in the area. The Bissau campus will allow them to reach many more students, expand programs, and work toward self-sustainability.

For the last several years, WAVS' U.S. Board of Directors has been evaluating different pieces of land in Bissau on which to build the new campus. They are in promising talks right now for a 23-acre land grant in Bissau. They also recently completed a fundraising event toward the first phase of construction that

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resulted in \$62,189! Although WAVS is a separate organization with its own goals, finances, and structure, we're looking forward to being a big part of helping set up and build their new campus. To find out more about this project, go to: www.wavschoools.org/theyareready

Political Turmoil by Emily

The last several months have been politically rocky in Guinea-Bissau - starting with the president firing the prime minister and dissolving the cabinet, which led to protests, the Supreme Court weighing in, candidates and appointments rejected on all sides, and a whole lot of chaos in a politically unstable state.

I am happy to say that the president and the parliament compromised, a new prime minister was appointed, and many people let out a deep breath of gratitude. However, less than a week later the president publicly rejected the new prime minister's new cabinet and the cycle of political infighting continues.

We do praise the Lord that the army (who always "solves" these crisis situations with bloody coups or assassinations) has stayed completely out of the whole process. That probably has more to do with the large occupying force of West African peacekeepers who have been stationed in Guinea-Bissau since the coup in 2012 than anything else, but even so, we are grateful. Please pray for peace in the hearts and plans of the government of Guinea-Bissau and for God to continue to elevate men and women of integrity to positions of leadership there.

Five Years Old by Emily

October is a month full of thrills for the Atkins family - Savannah's 5th birthday, the arrival of our anticipated littlest, and the beauty of fall in Michigan! Looking back over the last year of Savannah's life, I am amazed at the growth I see in her. She has always been a social girl, and it's beautiful to see her genuinely love the people around her so deeply and unselfishly. I cannot imagine being so flexible, rolling with our life's many changes, and embracing so many different kinds of people at such a young age, but she does it so naturally.

Several times when we've been speaking at a church, we've caught her sneaking a pile of prayer cards off of our table, walking up to random people, and asking, "Do you have a fridge?" If they said yes she hands them a card and says, "Good, you can put this card on it and pray for our family." Good thing she's so cute, huh?

I know for sure God gave us Savannah for this exact time and season of our lives. We have been blessed by her love and joy.

Jason + Emily



There's nothing like splashing in the pool with your cousins!



Bacon! Like father, like son :-)



These two are counting the days until there's a third little Atkins to play with and love.



Birthday party bracelet making