



The Atkins Family

Jason, Emily, Savannah,
Nathaniel, and Miriam

Serving in Guinea-Bissau with



West African
Vocational Schools

November 2016

We're excited to
announce a new team
member and
housemate!

(not a new baby!)

Car Campaign by Jason

Our trusty 2003 Explorer has served us (mostly) well for the past six years. Being mobile to source material, move equipment, visit other missionaries, and go to job sites magnifies what we're able to accomplish during our time in Guinea-Bissau. However, after all of the bumps, jolts, and fluctuations between soppy humidity and dry heat, maintenance is becoming a bigger issue. With our move to Canchungo, we're also doing a lot more driving on bad roads in the middle of nowhere, and the Explorer has left us on the side of the road a few times too many. In addition, being in a more rural setting has spread the geography of the projects we're involved in quite a bit, and increased the importance of being able to get around reliably.

6 years
22,573 miles
3 wheel bearings
1 blown strut
Thousands of pot holes
3 flat tires
2 plank bridges crossed
3 sets of brake pads
1 evacuation
Hundreds of speed bumps
A lot of ministry

We've been mulling over this change for more than a year, and are hopeful we can switch to a younger vehicle with some more capacity. We expect the difference between selling the Explorer here and buying, outfitting, shipping, and importing a newer, more capable truck from the U.S. to cost about \$11,000. If you would like to make a special donation toward this need, checks can be sent to WAVS (address on back) with the memo "Atkins Vehicle", or online at www.JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/car - Thank you!



Towing the block machine to build Youth For Christ's Mansoa base in 2011



Jenna by Emily

For most of our ten years here we have been the lone foreigners working for our organization in Guinea-Bissau. In Bissau we lived next to a guest house, so we had lots of interaction with missionaries from other organizations, but we've been much more isolated since our move to Canchungo. We have many Guinean friends in our community, but we miss having people who understand our worldview and can help process the struggles and triumphs of life in a different culture (and also to play board games with on Sunday afternoons :D).

In the beginning of November we welcomed a new American to our team. Her name is Jenna and she will be working at the WAVS vocational school and living with us for the next two years. Just in the past few weeks she has been a big blessing to the kids and I at home, and a HUGE blessing to Jason at the school as he has been handing over all of the administrative work he was helping out with, and getting back to working in the shop full time. It has been fun helping Jenna get acclimated to life and work here, and having the opportunity to see Guinea-Bissau through the eyes of someone taking it all in for the first time.

You can check out any of our previous newsletters from the last decade, including the September letter detailing our switch from Youth For Christ to WAVS at www.JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/newsletters

West African Politics *by Emily*

A few weeks ago the president of Guinea-Bissau fired the prime minister and entire cabinet, effectively dissolving the government. A few days later the president unconstitutionally appointed new people for those positions with no input from the legislature. This may sound shocking, but it actually the fifth time that has happened since August 2015!

All of the political parties are up in arms about the situation and the government has been completely gridlocked for the past year and a half. The international community has withdrawn financial support, the government is bankrupt, and though there have been several peace summits with other African leaders, there is no real plan to end the crisis.

The instability has meant that police officers, teachers, soldiers, and other government workers across the country have not been paid for months. The one bright spot in all of this mess is that the military have not intervened by assassinating or overthrowing the president by force as has so often been the case in the past.

We're praying that some kind of workable, enforceable compromise can be reached to bring stability so workers get paid and civil services can resume countrywide.

Thank you for your prayer, interest,
support, and encouragement!
-The Atkins Family



To Give Online:

At JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com/give you can make a one-time donation or set up an automatic monthly donation by EFT or credit card.

To Give By Check:

Please make checks payable to:
WAVS / P.O. Box 25455 / Seattle, WA 98165
with "Atkins" in the memo.