

Jason & Emily Atkins

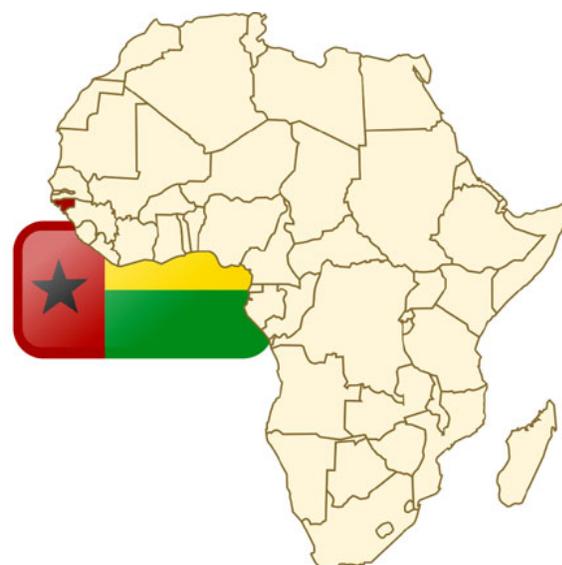
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President Vieira Assassinated – by Jason

Guinea-Bissau continues to live in an unstable political situation. In early March, the military chief of staff was killed in a bombing. Later that day, soldiers in the military who blamed the president for the bomb assassinated him after a battle at the presidential palace. There was a great deal of concern that the situation could escalate to a coup, or worse. The president and his military rival were from different tribes, and if the killings were seen as a tribal thing, it's possible a civil war could have broken out. Fortunately, the memory of the horror of the 1999 revolution is still fresh in the national psyche and we're praying that calmer heads will prevail this time. The army has stated that it is not initiating a coup, that the soldiers responsible for the president's assassination will be brought to justice, and that the proper constitutional line of succession will be followed.

The head of parliament was placed as the interim president according to the constitution and has pledged to obey the constitution's call for new elections in two months. We are praying that this new election would be fair, peaceful, and that a candidate will rise to power with integrity and a real interest in helping his citizens instead of just hooking his friends and family up. The sense of solidarity and looking out for others in the community is the highest virtue in West African culture, but for some reason this sentiment in government generally only extends to the friends and family of those in power.

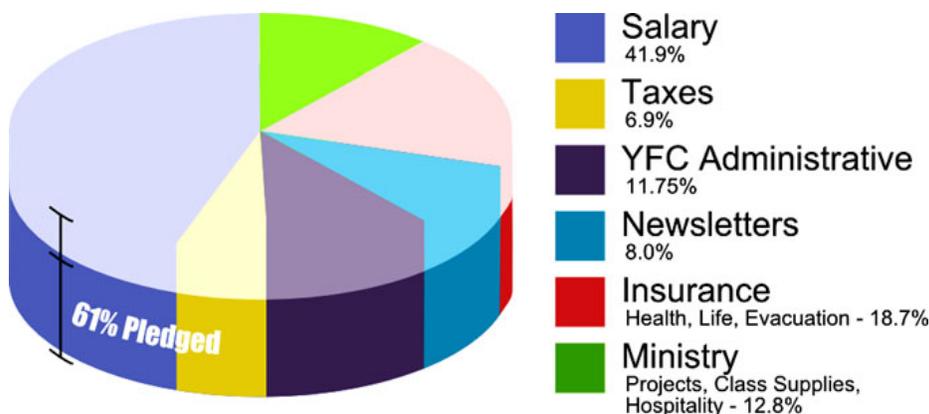
Please pray with us for a wider vision for the next leader and that people from different tribes could see this as an opportunity to work together to change their country instead of continuing the bitterness that has been passed down through the generations.



Financial Puzzle – by Emily

As we've been raising support we have been so blessed by people's enthusiasm to get involved in what God's doing in Guinea-Bissau. We believe more than ever that the people of Guinea-Bissau are ready to hear the gospel and we are excited to have the opportunity to be over there sharing it everyday. God's vision for that country is so big and it's amazing that He chooses to use all of us working together to make it happen.

Right now our main focus in fundraising is to find people who can commit to support us monthly. We need to have \$3750 per month pledged before we can head out. People have been curious about what makes up that number, so we wanted to include a chart of how that lays out.



Continued...

For the ministry of:

Jason & Emily Atkins Account: 30115

Serving with Youth for Christ / Guinea-Bissau, Africa

Donation Information:

Check # _____ Amount _____

Please apply this to my pledge.

This is a new pledge per month of: \$100 \$50 \$25 other

This is a one-time gift for their ministry.

Please send me information regarding automatic monthly Electronic Fund Transfer

Contributions are under the control and administration of YFC/USA and are tax-deductible.

www.yfc.org/give

Please make checks payable to

YOUTHFORCHRIST USA
PO Box 4478
Englewood, CO 80155

The Dirt Smasher – by Jason

This month I attended a two day crash course in San Antonio on how to make buildings out of dirt. Donors that wish to stay anonymous donated a machine to YFC that makes building blocks out of dirt! When I left for the training I didn't know much about the machine, but I thought that it would simply automate the process of making the sun dried cement block we're used to building with in Bissau. Not so! This machine makes something called a "compressed earth block". It cranks out about 300 blocks per hour from just smashing the right kind of dirt! It compresses the dirt about 2x and the blocks are **strong**. They can hold a tremendous amount of weight and the walls are even bullet-proof! Not bad for dirt, eh? Another lovely feature of this kind of construction is that the walls are so dense they store thermal energy. So, in the afternoon when the sun is the hottest, the walls will still be cool like they were at 8am. That's the part I'm most excited about!



Pretty amazing that a machine this size can crank out 300 blocks an hour!

The construction technology will give us a great deal of flexibility. From being able to make very pretty but extremely tough buildings, to having the capability to quickly build very cheap, tough buildings for smaller utilitarian projects – the block maker is going to be a big blessing to the missionaries, YFC Guinea-Bissau, and the Guinean national church! (It also provides one more revenue stream for YFC Guinea-Bissau, strengthening their ability to sustain themselves financially.)

I'm looking forward to getting back to Bissau so we can begin the hunt for just the right kind of dirt ahead of the machine arriving in a few months!

For more info and a short video of the machine in action, check out my blog: www.jasonpatkins.blogspot.com

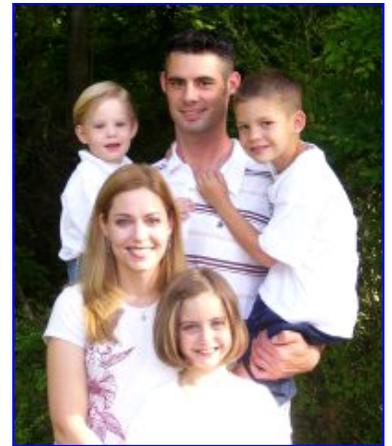
Meet the Team: The McHargues – by Emily

One of the five families that will be working with us in Bissau is headed there this month! Wade and Katie McHargue and their three kids are all packed up and ready to wing their way to their new home in Guinea-Bissau.

The Mchargues have done short-term missions work in lots of different countries and they served in Senegal (the country just north of Guinea-Bissau) for three years. They both have tremendous evangelistic gifts and they are passionate about seeing lost people find a relationship with Christ. While they were planted churches working in discipleship ministries in a small village in Senegal they were blessed to see over a hundred Muslims from a very resistant tribe freed by Christ!

After their time in Senegal they moved back to the States to work with an inner city ministry in Charlotte, North Carolina. God blessed that ministry in many ways. They worked there for three years, but their hearts were always pulled back to Africa, and especially the Muslim people of West Africa.

Last summer they felt God releasing them from their ministry in North Carolina to go back and serve in West Africa again. They knew Jack and Polly from their time in Senegal and had been really interested in what God was doing in Guinea-Bissau, so they contacted of Youth for Christ and joined our team. We have had the opportunity to go to several training things with them, and we couldn't be more excited about working with them in Guinea-Bissau! They're awesome and we can't wait to see what God will do through them this time!



*The McHargues
Josiah (2), Wade, Caleb (7),
Katie, and Abigail (9)*

Jason + Emily