



## Jason & Emily Atkins

Ministering in Guinea-Bissau

Caxia Postal 834, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, VIA PORTUGAL

[www.jasonandemilyatkins.com](http://www.jasonandemilyatkins.com)

[jasonpatkins@gmail.com](mailto:jasonpatkins@gmail.com) ♦ [emilymarieatkins@gmail.com](mailto:emilymarieatkins@gmail.com)

*Mission Statement: Ajuda Bajuda is a Christian initiative in West Africa with a two-fold purpose: to train women to develop their creative skills in order to bless their families financially, and to disciple them to be godly women, godly wives, and godly mothers.*

### Ajuda Bajuda *by Emily*

If you walk into our kitchen on any given Thursday night you'll find me sitting with six Guinean women stretching my Creole and having a great time. This time back in Bissau I am involved in a women's ministry called Ajuda Bajuda. In Creole "ajuda" means "help" and "bajuda" means "a young women"; so Ajuda Bajuda, true to its name, is a ministry that helps women here in Guinea-Bissau.

While we were in the States this past year I was praying for a way to interact with women and practice my Creole, and while I was praying God was making a way! Earlier this year two missionaries on our team, Polly and Anna, started a ministry with the idea of training women to make jewelry and handbags that would be sold in the States. The women are paid a good wage for their work and that wage is matched in a savings fund for them to start their own business.

When we arrived Polly and Anna had six women making rings and bags and they had the desire to start a weekly training time with them. Polly and her family were headed to Dakar, Senegal, and Anna and her family had just moved back to the States so I jumped right in and started weekly training sessions on Thursday afternoons. Each week I meet with the women and we have half-an-hour of prayer, half-an-hour of discipleship, and half-an-hour of business training. The goal is that after a year or two of working with us we can help each woman use her savings fund to start her own business. That frees us up to hire new women to train.

I am so excited about the ministry opportunities with Ajuda Bajuda and I think I could literally talk about it all day! (Just ask Jason... hehe) If you want to see pictures and bios of the women I'm working with, or if you want to see the gorgeous rings and bags that we've been making please check out our website!

[www.AjudaBajuda.com](http://www.AjudaBajuda.com)



Some of our lovely Swarovski Crystal rings

### Accounting *by Jason*

Lots of projects have been waiting for us here at the youth center while we've been home. Some of them are fun, some important, and some are both. This month I'm focusing heavily on the accounting project (I guess some are just important). When we left, we had just switched from a very basic accounting system (good old Ms Money) to a more complicated (and much more accurate) system. The accountant at the youth center, Fodé, learned a whole new way of accounting in the last two months that we were here. He's been running the system for the 16 months from then until now and doing a great job. Unfortunately, some difficulty in getting reports from the system has meant that the leadership has been doing some cool new building projects and losing ground financially as a result.

It's a giant miracle that the center has been able to sustain itself financially, but it has lost about 75% of its reserves in the past year. In order to keep its head above water, I'm spending a lot of time working with Fodé on training. Fodé is now working on producing good reports to help the board understand how the center is doing financially in a more meaningful way so that they can make good decisions. I have a lot of confidence in the leadership of the center and am looking forward to seeing them turn things around, supported by good information from Fodé and me as we continue developing his skills!

*continued...*



Fodé

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**Jason & Emily Atkins**

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## Teacher Training *by Emily*

One of the idioms that we teach our English students in third level is "music to my ears." Last week I went around to all of the English classes (we currently have 14 with about 20 students each!!!!) to make an announcement about the upcoming talent show. When I popped into a level three classroom and heard the lessons that I wrote being taught by a Guinean English teacher it really was music to my ears!

Right now all of our English classes are being taught by Guineans, and I love it! Because of that, this time I won't be teaching any English classes to our students, I'm going to be teaching the teachers. About once a month I'm doing a Saturday morning continuing education seminar for our current teachers and in September I'm going to start a six-month long program to train six new teachers. Right now I've got a pile of books and papers and tons of ideas swimming around in my head as I'm in the middle of planning that teacher training program.



Emily and Pete Frinrock

On July fourth, while firecrackers were booming in the US, Emily Frinrock (here with her husband, Pete, for three weeks) and I had the first Saturday morning training for our current teachers. More than half of them were my English students for second and third level English so I know them really well. We had a ball! I spent the first half talking about ways to share Jesus with our English students. Emily Frinrock did a great job showing them some new games to play to help the students review and talking about ways to use posters and charts hung on the walls to reinforce the things that the students are learning. It was a huge help to them and they're really looking forward to the next one!

## Movin' *by Jason*

This past month we arrived, said hello to our team, hello to a short-term couple, hello to a short-term guy, goodbye to the short-term couple, and goodbye to part of our team. We also changed rooms three times because our permanent room wasn't available when we got here and moved all of our kitchen stuff once. That's a lot of in and out for a month!



The Wilson Family on day they moved to Dakar  
Jack, Polly, Eden, and Eleazar

Jack and Polly left with their car packed high to move to Dakar, Senegal, on July 3. Senegal is the country north of us. They're busy doing language school right now to learn the two local languages, French and Wolof. We'll really miss having them around but are glad that they're only a country away. This month the bridge that makes the trip between here and there easier was also completed and opened, putting them even closer. We're glad for all we've been able to learn from them and get done with them, and glad to be able to keep working on projects together with them from time to time.



Getting settled into our new cupboards in the kitchen

*Jason + Emily*



Packing the car!