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Jason, Emily & Savannah Atkins

MAKING DISCIPLES *by Emily*

After Jason came back from the training he attended on using the block making machine in 2008 he was pretty excited. The day that the machine arrived in Guinea-Bissau in November 2009 he was downright giddy, and the day the first block rolled off the line his anticipation started to turn into reality.

Over the years, the Church in Guinea-Bissau has built schools and dug wells in areas of the country that have been long forgotten by the Guinean government. Because of this, Christians have a great reputation as people who really care about the poverty around them. This block making machine gave us a way to partner with the church in their construction projects to build buildings faster, stronger, and cheaper than they ever could before!

When teammates of ours moved out to the village of Mansoa to start a Youth for Christ discipleship school Jason jumped at the chance to take the block maker out there and help with the construction. Last year, before the rains came, they used the block maker to build houses for the leadership of the school and a large pavilion with several rooms in the back.

In January the discipleship school in Mansoa started it's first class. Eleven men from around Guinea-Bissau and one from the US came together in January to spend 12 weeks digging deep into their faith. As part of the training they are doing an in depth study of the entire New Testament, getting serious about prayer especially in the areas of spiritual warfare and healing, memorizing scripture, and learning how to disciple new Christians.



The pavilion where the students have class at the YFC Discipleship School in Mansoa



Our teammates the McHargues Caleb, Abby, Josiah, Katie and Wade

Please remember these students in your prayers. The discipleship program they are participating in is intense, but the hardest part is going to come when they leave. Many of them come from villages and families where they are the only Christian. They came out of some pretty serious persecution to come to the school and when they leave they are going right back into it. Pray that the things that they've learned will enable them to stand strong with love and patience so that people would be able to see the change in their lives and long for the hope that they have.



The students and faculty of the YFC Discipleship School in Mansoa

Budget

73%

If you've been thinking about joining our monthly support team, now is a great time! We've got **73%** of our monthly needs pledged and we're looking for people who want to be part of the remaining **27%**

continued...

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

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Jason & Emily Atkins

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"TERRA BONITU" BEAUTIFUL LAND by Jason

We recently took a trip to the several villages in the interior of Guinea-Bissau to work with the block machine, encourage the local Christians, and visit missionary friends of ours who we haven't seen since we came back. The trip was nice (especially nice since we were riding in a car with air conditioning!), and although we're glad to be back home, it did us good to see the different parts of Guinea-Bissau again and have a little time away from the city.

I was reminded again as we drove through the wilderness between each village what a beautiful, fertile country we're in. Cashew trees are growing this year's crop, the many mango trees have half-sized green mangoes hanging from their branches, getting ready to be eaten in a few months, and most of the things that grow here do so without anyone having to farm them! In the city sometimes we forget, but out in the bush it's clear that we live in a place bursting with life. It struck me again how odd it is in a place that grows things so well that people could be suffering from malnutrition or even dying of diseases brought on by starvation.



Glorious papayas

We work in so many different areas and do a lot of different things, but this thought renewed my excitement about what the projects coming from the machine shop could mean for the local farmers, and what that could mean for the nutrition of this beautiful country. Two thirds of Guineans live in villages, most of them farming or herding. The inherited knowledge of farming and animal care here is amazing, and if we can play a small part in helping provide the hand operated machines to help them increase yield enough to feed their country, it will make a huge difference.



A rice field by the road in the village



Papayas!

Jason + Emily



A beautiful tree lined road