



The Atkins Family

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Though our work in Guinea-Bissau will continue, October is our last month with Youth For Christ.

Change By Jason

A change is coming for us. It's been almost a year in the making, but it's happening this month. We have been serving in Guinea-Bissau with Youth For Christ for 10 years. We have been wonderfully supported by the Youth For Christ USA staff, and have enjoyed being part of the larger YFC mission. However, a change in policy has happened at YFC International that precludes missionaries from working in places where they're not mainly involved with the work of the national YFC program (in this case, YFC Guinea-Bissau).

Over the last several years, we've started to understand that YFC Guinea-Bissau leadership doesn't see the shop/construction ministry as part of their vision or ministry portfolio. As we've understood this, we've felt them asking for space, and have tried to be respectful and give it to them. We've forged a partnership with WAVS (West African Vocational Schools), whose vision for vocational training dovetails nicely with our mission of helping local aid/church/development projects through mechanical support and construction. Although I still provide a substantial amount of tech support help to the computer department at YFC, we're not primarily engaged at that location anymore, as they've needed space to make their own decisions.

The new policy has the effect that we either need to leave YFC to stay in Guinea-Bissau, or leave Guinea-Bissau to stay with YFC. While we love YFC, the primary call God's put on our family for this time is to Guinea-Bissau. Ten years have accomplished much, but have also included a lot of preparation and laying groundwork for fruit that has not yet been realized. Equipment is here, but there is still national staff to train so it can continue being useful for God's kingdom far into the future.

This month we will be making a transition from Youth For Christ missionary staff to West African Vocational Schools missionary staff.

WAVS, who runs the school where my shop is now located, is excited to have us on board. The change has required and will continue to require a lot of energy, because we'll be the first missionary staff for the organization. They hope to use us a model to add more missionary staff in the future.

We'll be changing the way we send out newsletters, receipt donations, and handle things like our international health insurance. While there's a lot of work ahead, we are excited about being part of an organization that more closely aligns with the work that God has put on our hearts. In reality, this change reflects a gradual transition that's already been happening over the last few years, and will have little effect on our day to day ministry. We pray it will only amplify our efforts.

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I'll be a program mentor to the Welding Department, but will still spend most of my day training and working with students, building and repairing things that are needed by schools/churches/aid organizations, and helping maintain the school facilities. Emily will be involved in teacher training and continuing education for the staff at the school, and continue to take care of our communication with you (newsletters, prayer updates, thank you notes).

We have been incredibly blessed over the years by the faithfulness of the people God has called alongside us to support this work through prayer, interest, and giving. We pray that we can continue to count on this faithfulness as we make the transition to WAVS.

So, here are a few questions you might be wondering about. We don't wish to get too business-y, but do want to communicate clearly what will be happening.

Q) Will I keep getting newsletters?

A) Yes! You'll continue receiving newsletters in the same way. Those receiving emails will continue to do so (coming from Emily) and those receiving paper letters will continue to do so, but will be coming in an envelope from WAVS, that will likely look like the picture on this page. If you currently receive paper newsletters and would like to switch to electronic that would be great! Let Emily know: EmilyMarieAtkins@gmail.com

Q) Does the move to WAVS change the way your ministry is funded?

A) No, we'll continue to depend on the money sent by faithful individuals, families, and churches to keep us over here.

Q) Where do I send donations?

A) Donations can still be given online, now via WAVS, through the giving link at the bottom of our homepage (www.JasonAndEmilyAtkins.com) or directly at https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/West_African_Vocational_Schools/atkins. If you wish to mail a check with our name on the memo line, the address for that will now be: WAVS / P.O. Box 25455 / Seattle, WA 98165

Q) Will my automatic monthly donation carry over to WAVS?

A) No. WAVS can set up automatic monthly EFT or credit card donations just like YFC, but we can't legally do that for you. To set up a monthly donation with WAVS, visit https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/West_African_Vocational_Schools/atkins. That page will give you the option of either a one-time donation, or to set up an automatic monthly donation in the way that you chose.

You will also need to cancel the monthly donation with Youth For Christ. To do that you can either email donations@yfc.net or call them at 303.843.9000. They just need to know who you are, who you support, and that you want to cancel the recurring charge.

Q) If I choose to continue my support, when should I switch my donations from YFC to WAVS?

A) Starting November first we will begin receiving paychecks from WAVS, so it would really help us out if everyone who wants to continue donating monthly switches over to WAVS by early November.



Nathaniel and friends filling up bottles from the sandy road.



Visiting with some of my best friends in our neighborhood.



Be on the lookout for our new envelopes next month.