



WOMEN THEOLOGIAN OF THE MALAGASY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mada Matters

Quarterly

FIRST QUARTER 2016

Introductions

Who I am...

My name is Kirsten Laderach. I am a pastor with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and I am currently serving as the Country Coordinator for YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) in Madagascar. Mada Matters is my quarterly newsletter about my experiences in Madagascar working with YAGM and the FLM (the Malagasy Lutheran Church.) *For sometimes more frequent news check out my blog at madagascarvaovao.wordpress.org*

Before I arrived in Madagascar last spring I had been pastoring a church in Stockton, California, Zion Lutheran Church and before that I graduated from Luther Seminary with my Masters of Divinity.

What I do...

My work is mainly around the needs, placement and support of the Young

Adults who come to Madagascar yearly. I work with placement sites to understand their needs and see where a volunteer might be helpful. I also access the community's ability to host and support a volunteer for the year. I make modifications within sites and create new sites as appropriate and visit each site twice a year. I offer pastoral support to the YAGM's and organize the in-country orientation (3 weeks) along with two retreats breaking up the year and a final retreat to help volunteers process the year and begin to transition back into life in the states, these are all around 8 days each.

When there is time, which hasn't felt like much so far, I am working to be involved with the Women Theologians and the Youth Leadership of the FLM as well.



Women's Conference

Yea, that's me with a few fellow attendees of the FLM Women's Conference in August 2015. I was privileged to speak about the History of Women's Orientation in the Lutheran Church in the USA.



This year's YAGM's

In August we brought over 9 volunteers to volunteer in various capacities all over the island. Here we are during in-country orientation. This is before they have seen their homes for the year. They are just getting used to Madagascar!

Visit from the Bishop!

A YAGM year starts with a one-week Orientation in Chicago followed by in-country Orientation in their respective countries. The Madagascar retreat is three weeks in length. The bulk of our time is devoted to language learning but we also learn about the Malagasy culture in general, we begin getting used to living in Madagascar, we learn program expectations and we have time for prayer, devotion and reflection.

This year we also had some special visitors, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Pastor Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director of Global Missions and Pastor Andrea Walker, Area Program Director for Madagascar, West and Central Africa.



To welcome them we worked with the Cultural Department of Lovasoa, where we were staying in Antsirabe for our Orientation, to put together a cultural event of music and traditional dance. This year's group of volunteers are quite musical so I got them together with the Malagasy musicians a week earlier

and they put on the musical presentation together even singing in Malagasy.

Here our special guests, the Malagasy musicians and dancers and this year's YAGM are pictured after the presentation.

Thank you for your support!



Thank you so much for the many ways you are supporting me and the work of the global church. Your gifts of prayer, finance and consideration sustain me and my colleagues making our ministries possible and productive.

Never doubt that you are appreciated and sustaining in ways you might not even imagine! Many Blessings to you and please do not

hesitate to reach out with questions or words of encouragement!

QUESTIONS / COMMUNICATION

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