

MADA MATTERS

Tratry ny taona! Bonne Année! Happy New Year!

What I do

I coordinate the YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) program of the ELCA in Madagascar. This means programmatic, logistical and pastoral support for 10 volunteers in all corners of this country. I travel a ton to see them and to support the accompaniment part of our church to church work. I am constantly being refined and renewed, learning things about the world and myself while challenging and cultivating my faith.

Questions/ Communication

Pastor Kirsten Laderach -
YAGM Country Coordinator -
Madagascar

Blog:
madagascarvaovao.wordpress.com

Email:
kirsten.laderach@elca.org

Facebook: YAGM Madagascar

Mailing: BP 880, Isoraka 101
Antananarivo, Madagascar



Songs to sing

There are so many things to love about Madagascar; one of my favorite things is the need to sing. Church choirs are very popular and often very intense, practicing multiple times a week for multiple hours. Not every choir for sure, but the choir at FLM Ambolokandrina definitely does. A couple weeks before Christmas I went to see the choir perform their Christmas concert. Three costumes to go with their three sets; Malagasy Christmas music, Various songs from the different tribes of Madagascar (you can see the costumes for this above) and then a Western music / Classical European set. The third set included the Hallelujah chorus and songs in other languages beyond the





Malagasy, French and English that are always song. Amazingly talented and extremely dedicated!

There was also a delightful group of middle school aged kids who performed during one of the custom changes. (For those of you who know Hasina, his daughter is the one playing flute.)

500 / 150 year Jubilee - Betafo, Madagascar

A celebration might be delayed but it is never cancelled, not here, no way. The end of October marked the 500 year reformation celebration all around the world, but we had the plague here and everything got cancelled, or at least postponed. So in December, with the plague feeling a distant memory, the celebration was had. Church leaders, church folks from all over the island, many many choirs, government, missionaries even some military came to celebrate. It was a perfectly Malagasy affair, with speech after speech, multiple presentations, reflections on their history and the themes that LWF (Lutheran World Federation) created, awards and pins given, songs sung, worship, congratulations, appreciation, a long communion, greetings of friends and kind words spoken and gracious hospitality shared.

Ways to support me

As always I thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support. It takes a lot to sustain our work here in Madagascar and around the world. Ways you can help:

- Pray - for me, our work here and for Madagascar
- Communicate - through email and snail mail
- Sponsor - myself or Global ministries in Madagascar at: <https://community.elca.org/Madagascar>



Prayer Requests -

It is the rain and Cyclone season and we await the imminent arrival of the first named storm of the season, pray for good rain and not destruction. Pray for preparation and resources, pray for safety, security, food supplies and sanitation.

