

January 2019

# ADVENTURES IN MADA

*Bi-monthly Newsletter*



## NEW FOOD

If you follow my social media, then this is not the first time you have seen this photo, but it is my new obsession. A traditional Malagasy breakfast of vary amin'anana sy kitoza (soupy rice, greens, and smoked meat) is by far the best way to start your day.



## LEARN MALAGASY

This adorable mananasay (pineapple) is growing right outside my apartment. Mananasay is a favorite of mine and is usually eaten for dessert here, but it also gets made into a very tasty juice.



## NEW FRIEND(S)\*

Meet my beginner level English class! A lot of the girls in this class live at ILOFAV. We meet every Saturday morning and they are VERY hard workers. They have progressed so much since we started our classes and I am beyond proud of them.

## FAVORITE VIEW

This view is smack in the middle of Tana and was actually taken out of a window in Pastor Kirsten's home. I like this picture because I think it's beautiful and it's a bit different from the birds-eye-view pictures that I usually share.



# NEW EXPERIENCE

## *Embracing Change*

I had a hard time coming up with what to write in this newsletter. I started to get frustrated wondering why I couldn't come up with anything to write about. After starting (and deleting) multiple drafts I typed out EVERYTHING IS NORMAL NOTHING EXCITING HAS HAPPENED. THE END. Hope you enjoyed my newsletter!

Okay, you are getting a little more than three dramatic writers block sentences, but my frustration quickly turned to inspiration as I looked at what I had written. "Everything is normal"...normal. Now there's a word I never thought I would associate with living in Madagascar.

I think back to August 25, the first time I saw Tana in the daylight and overwhelmed would be an understatement. I hoped that eventually the chaos would get less intimidating. That I would learn how to cross the street without almost getting hit by a car, that I would be able to understand the people who tried to speak to me instead of meeting them with a blank face, that I would learn if a vendor was overcharging me, and that I would stop tripping over holes in the sidewalks or loose bricks.

Fast forward 6 months later and I can dart in between (moving!) cars with confidence, I can not only understand, but respond to the people who talk to me when I walk down the street, I understand pricing and can barter with confidence, but I still haven't gotten over the tripping thing....at least I can laugh at myself for it now!

I'm someone who used to struggle with change and coming to Madagascar was no exception. But the things that had scared me eventually became normal and if these 6 months have taught me anything, it's that amazing things can come from change. Change is a beautiful thing that should be embraced, not feared.



Pastor Haja with my new favorite fruit pacanele



The street view of my church

## KEEPING UP WITH THE MADAGASGALS

Thank you for walking on this journey with me and for your continued support. I can feel the strength of your positive vibes and prayers. I ask that you continue to send them to not just me, but all the Madagasgals and ask that you send prayers for safe travels to my family who will be coming to visit me next month!

If you want more of the Madagasgals (and let's be honest here, who wouldn't), I encourage you to check out my blog at: [adventuresinmada.wordpress.com](http://adventuresinmada.wordpress.com) or my Instagram: [adventuresinmada](https://www.instagram.com/adventuresinmada) as well as the blogs of my cohort listed below!

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*All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them*

*~Walt Disney~*

Madagasgals Blogs:

Arin Liskza:  
[arinsmadagascaradventure.wordpress.com](http://arinsmadagascaradventure.wordpress.com)

Annika Johnson:  
[goingoutgoingin1819.wordpress.com](http://goingoutgoingin1819.wordpress.com)

Kasey Shultz:  
[adventuresofspecialk.wordpress.com](http://adventuresofspecialk.wordpress.com)

Kristen Slaybaugh:  
[slaybaughkm.wixsite.com](http://slaybaughkm.wixsite.com)

Rachel Peterson:  
[missionmada.home.blog](http://missionmada.home.blog)