

ADVENTURES IN MADA

Bi-monthly Newsletter



NEW FOOD

These delightful little circles of rice flour are called mofogasy. I first heard about them when a Mada alum, Lee, told me they were his favorite things here...I understand why. They come plain or in three flavors: fromage (cheese), coco (coconut), & choloat (chocolate). Any guesses which one is my favorite?



LEARN MALAGASY

Saka means cat. Lucky for me ILOFAV has two that live on the campus...so naturally I have bribed them to love me & then decided to name them. I named the charcoal covered white one Tessie (after the song known throughout Boston) & the orange one Simba (after the Lion King...he's kind of feisty like Simba).



NEW FRIEND(S)

This is Pastor Haja & he wears many hats. He is a pastor, works at the Printing Press, & is a very talented musician. He writes celebratory music for the church, hymns in the FLM hymnal, & music for a well known gospel group. A bonus fun fact: we were both at the 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans...what a small world!

FAVORITE VIEW

This view is directly out the window of Pastor Haja's office at the Printing Press where I go to work on Monday & Friday. Funny enough, it also overlooks the same lake from my first newsletter (I guess it really is my favorite view of Tana)! I like how I can look at the same lake from a new angle & see a completely new view.



NEW EXPERIENCE

Reformation Party!

The Reformation occurred in the 16th century and began with Martin Luther's 95 theses which essentially called out the corruption and demanded a change within the Catholic Church. I had of course heard of the reformation (after all, I am a confirmed Lutheran gal) but I have never celebrated it in the U.S.

The party was slated to start at 10am and the music started playing through the speakers at about 8am. However, in typical Malagasy fashion, people actually started arriving around 1:30pm. I awkwardly took a seat by myself, but wasn't alone for long. I was THRILLED when 3 ILOFAV residents/students of mine came and sat with me. I was happy to have people to talk with before the event started and for the opportunity to get to know my students a little better. They told me with pride about the food their cooking class helped to prepare for that day and made me promised to try some (it was absolutely delicious, I was beyond impressed).

We started the event with a small worship led by Pastor Haja. Then, we heard from some incredible choirs; I'm not sure what it is about Malagasy choirs, but I think they create some of the best sound in the world. I sat with my students (now friends) listening, dancing, and clapping along to the music. Then, they announced it was time for praise karaoke!!! Anyone who knows me knows that I LOVE karaoke in any way, shape, or form, so naturally, I participated and sang Down to the River to Pray. The event ended with Diamondra's group getting up to sing one last song which appeared to be a traditional Malagasy song that was accompanied by a highlands dance. My friends were excited to teach it to me and I'm hoping I have more opportunities to practice it in the future.

Reformation Day has been my favorite day in Madagascar so far. The worship was meaningful and the party was fun, but it was also the first day that I really started to feel like I was apart of my community.



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 all of us as we enter into the holiday season. I am excited to spend the holiday's celebrating and learning some new traditions with my Malagasy friends, but will also be thinking of my friends and family back home.

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 as well as the blogs of my cohort listed below!

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Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it

~Psalm 34:14~

Madagasgals Blogs:

Arin Liszka:
arinsmadagascaradventure.wordpress.com

Annika Johnson:
goingoutgoingin1819.wordpress.com

Kasey Shultz:
adventuresofspecialk.wordpress.com

Kristen Slaybaugh:
slaybaughkm.wixsite.com

Rachel Peterson:
missionmada.home.blog