

# ADVENTURES IN MADA

*Bi-monthly Newsletter*



## NEW FOOD

Okay so fish isn't totally new, but I've never had it like this before. In Madagascar, they eat every part of the fish and I mean EVERY part. I decided to be adventurous and eat the eyes and tail on mine. Believe it or not, the tail actually tastes a lot like a potato chip. You know what they say...don't knock it till ya try it!



## LEARN MALAGASY

Normally my newsletter won't be so food based (or maybe it will be...I do like food a lot), but the first Malagasy word I ever learned was vary (rice). In Madagascar, vary can be served at every meal, not just dinner. We all thought we'd be sick of it, but we crave it on the rare days we don't eat it!



## NEW FRIEND(S)

Between the Madagasqlas, Pastor Kirsten, and Honorine (our self proclaimed grandma), I had no clue how I would be able to pick just one new friend. Then, I saw this photo Pastor Kirsten took of us all in the market and decided I wouldn't pick and would show off all 7 of these beautiful blessings.

## FAVORITE VIEW

A fun fact about me, I LOVE taking pictures, especially of landscapes and views that I find particularly pretty. Lucky for me, Madagascar has plenty of views to offer. This is my favorite view (so far) in Antananarivo. The statue in the front of the photo is called "The Black Angel" and represents all the Malagasy soldiers who fought in World War 1 and II.





# NEW EXPERIENCE

## *Going to Church*

On Saturday, August 25, we had finished our journey from the bustling capitol of Antananarivo to the slightly less bustling city of Antsirabe (where we'll be until September 18). After dinner, Pastor Kirsten started talking about what our worship options were for the following morning. She mentioned the commissioning of the mpiangy (shepherds) was happening at the Fiangonana Loterana Malagasy (FLM) church in Farihimena and despite having to leave at 6 the next morning, we all agreed that was where we wanted to go.

After an hour and a half of driving, we arrived in Farihimena and settled in for the service. All of us have been to our fair share of church services and thought we had a general idea of what would be going on. There were some things that were similar like singing hymns, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostle's Creed. However, the 6.5 hour long (yes, you did read that right) service also included a political speech from the President of Madagascar, a speech from the President of the FLM, 2 sermons and 2 offerings. We were very fortunate to have Pastor Kirsten's friend Hasina there who graciously translated the service for us.

This week in Malagasy class, we learned that Sunday is considered a day of life. It's not an inconvenience to sit through a 6.5 hour service, because it's important to thank God for the life you have. I appreciate the time people take to be thankful here and it makes me wonder why things are so rushed in the U.S. when we have so much to be thankful for.



Above photos are courtesy of Pastor Kirsten

## 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 get closer to leaving for our sites and continue to discover more about life in Madagascar.

If you want more of the Madagascals (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) as well as the blogs of my cohort listed below!

**Side note:** If there is ever anything you want me to write about, you can email me at [brynkoskinen@gmail.com](mailto:brynkoskinen@gmail.com) to tell me.

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*One of the most difficult things is not to change society-but to change yourself*

*~Nelson Mandela~*

Madagascals Blogs:

Arin Liszka:  
[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)