

# MADA MATTERS

*"Vonona ve?" (Ready?) ... while, we're getting there....*

## 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 7 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

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## We Move Along...

Madagascar has seen it's challenges these past few months! We have been eye witnesses to the effects of unreliable infrastructure, plague, cyclones and now some political strife. Oh Madagascar, life is not easy on your lands or for your people! Even so, you provide an incredibly hospitable reality for all of us who pass through your borders...

We had our second retreat with the YAGM volunteers in March. Another refreshing time that reminds me every year that we all grow in our understanding of life and ourselves while we live in foreign lands for an extended period. March means that all the





## 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 -

There is a little political uncertainty right now as the sitting government and opposition parties are at odds about free and fair elections. Pray for wisdom, peace, patience and dialogue.

volunteers have been in Madagascar for 7 months, plenty of time to learn and grow, to be bent out of shape and to be trying to bend back into another new shape and understanding. And for myself, I always breathe a sigh of relief, being and knowing that this time and these struggles just might have been worth it!

## *Abiding*

I've been in the USA since April 9. First in Chicago for another DIP event, where I got to meet the new volunteers who will arrive in Madagascar in August. Then over to Phoenix where I visited family and New Journey Lutheran Church in Fountain Hills. I passed through the Twin Cities and saw more friends and preached at St Anthony Park Lutheran Church. And what a day that was! See below three volunteers from YAGM Madagascar who came to visit that day! Nothing but love and sweet memories of time abiding with each other through laughter and tears.

I'm in the USA until May 11, when I return to Mada. I'm doing my best to connect and abide with family and friends. This trip back has brought to focus that I am finding a home in Mada but even so, these visits to this US home are really too short!

