

# 2019 SAFE/GOGO REPORT

LOVE IN  
ACTION



**SAFE**

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA  
FAMILY ENRICHMENT





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*"Love is a verb."*

—Stephen R. Covey



SAFE



*"Love in Action"* — our 2019 theme—is being powerfully lived out by our SAFE staff in Malawi and those who pray and give here.

LOVE IN ACTION

I wish you could come with me to visit a gogo whose home was rebuilt after the cyclones or watch children learn and have a warm meal at a Community Based Childcare Center. It's life changing to see students in a public school classroom embrace the biblical truths in a Why Wait? lesson.

It's equally stirring to hear prison inmates tell how Jesus Christ is changing them from the inside out. And you'll never want to leave SAFE Haven—located in Zomba City Park—where thousands of children encounter the Gospel. The remodeled shipping container there is lovingly called "the home of smiles."

Our Malawian staff share a deep love for Jesus and the desire to see His love and truth transform lives and communities.

Thank you for helping to make the stories and impacts in this report possible.

In His love for the least,

*Leslie Lewis*

U.S. Coordinator for SAFE & Gogo Grandmothers



The SAFE staff in Malawi

## OUR VITAL PROGRAMS



### 1 Early Childhood Development

SAFE works with parents and gogos to meet the cognitive, social, physical and spiritual needs of young children enrolled in our 20 Community Based Childcare Centers. We prepare preschoolers for success in life and primary school. (37% of Malawian children, under 5, are suffering from malnutrition.)

### 2 Education & Youth Development

SAFE helps youth develop spiritually, morally, socially and educationally through

- Why Wait? Life Skills curriculum in the schools
- SAFE-Life Youth Clubs
- Scholarships for orphans and vulnerable children, and
- SAFE Haven urban outreach and parenting groups.

(53% of Malawi's population is under 18 years of age. Only 35% finish primary school.)



### 3 Gogo Grandparent Support

Grandparent (Gogo)-headed households are virtually the norm in Malawi, due to HIV&AIDS and other causes. SAFE programs assist these gogos. (Nearly one million Malawian children are orphans and the majority live with a gogo.)



### 4 Evangelism and Discipleship

are at the core of every SAFE program. The JESUS Film, Magdelana film and Walking with Jesus films are shown in many villages, schools and 3 prisons. Follow-up programs continue in each of these areas.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**S**AFE has 20 CBCCs (preschools) operating throughout all three regions of Malawi -- feeding and educating 2,216 young children.

From an early age, these children are learning about Jesus' love for them through songs, the Bible banner stories, prayer and play.



Our BUILD team has trained caregivers from 3 CBCCs (preschools). They are the pilot schools before it is rolled out to all our CBCCs.



**SAFE has trained 88 caregivers (teachers)** to help develop the mental, social, physical and spiritual health of the children. 20 gogo storytellers were recently added, and 44 cooks receive an allowance to cook for the children five days a week.



**This year** Kachindamoto CBCC was renovated and 3 CBCCs were built -- Lake Chilwa Chiyambi CBCC for 164 children, Tayamba CBCC for 74 children and Muwowo CBCC for 80 children. These were all built in partnership with donors, SAFE and village leadership! Playgrounds were also built at 5 of SAFE's CBCCs.

→ **IMPACT:** Over 13,000 young children have passed through SAFE's CBCCs and are measurably more successful in primary school. (Nationwide, success rate of students to 8th Grade for girls is only 22.7% and boys 36%.)

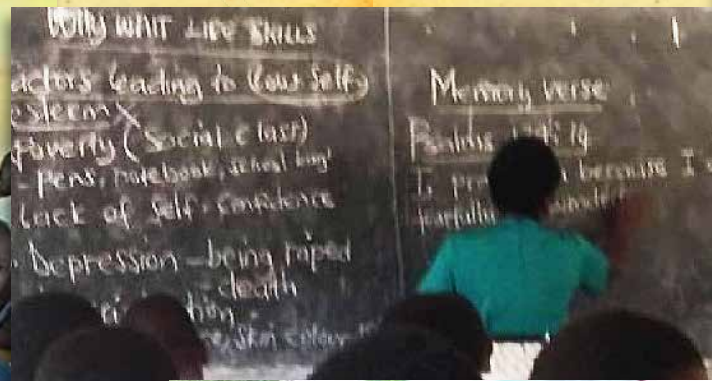
→ **OPPORTUNITY:** SAFE's newest initiative BUILD (Building Biblical Understanding in Literacy Development) works to improve the literacy and numeracy of CBCC programs in Malawi— increasing the success rate of students in primary school and beyond.

→ **ACTION:** 1. Help fund the development of Chichewa Bible storybooks for preschoolers so they can be introduced to literacy and the Bible in their own language.  
2. Fund a locally made playground!



**SAFE's WHY WAIT? Life Skills curriculum gives Malawian youth a Christian world view** and sensible reasons to abstain from risky behaviors so they can make healthy, biblical and moral choices regarding their futures. 151 new Why Wait? teachers were trained this year in 38 schools. Approximately 10,709 new students are being reached. Why Wait? is taught in both primary and secondary schools and is approved by the government of Malawi.

## EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



*Clockwise: Studying Why Wait?, reading the Bible for reference, a classroom lesson, two pleased students, SAFE Life Youth growing a garden to buy school supplies.*

**SAFE LIFE Youth Clubs target youth and young adults** at risk between 12-25 years of age. These 13 clubs all meet regularly and do service projects and various activities to pay for school supplies, like making 80 fuel-efficient stoves for poor gogos or growing beans and carrying sand. 498 youth have been active this year—staying safe and becoming useful citizens.



### SAFE Parenting/Mothers Groups

SAFE has Parenting Groups in all 13 communities where SAFE is active. These groups provide critical support to restore dropouts. For example, the 12-member Mposa group helped 15 girls and 5 boys get back to school after they had dropped out.

School	2017-18 Dropouts	2018-19 Dropouts
Luzi Primary	7	2
Chanolo Primary	6	0
Thumbi Primary	9	2
St. Vincent Primary	5	1
Luzi CDSS	3	0

- **IMPACT:** Why Wait? has a powerful impact on lowering the dropout rates due to pregnancy and early marriage, plus raising the testing pass rates. See these sample results.
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Doors are wide open to continue to bring Why Wait? teacher trainings, curriculum and Bibles into schools in all three regions of Malawi.
- **ACTION:** Provide a school with Why Wait? Life Skills training for 5 teachers (\$190), curriculum books (\$6.50 each) or a Chichewa Bible (\$10.50).



# STORIES TELL OUR STORY BEST

**SAFE Haven** seniors hold small group Bible study discussions. Here they are studying the "Call of Abram."



'B' is for BUILD. Letter sounds in Chichewa are being taught to improve language and reading skills.



Training in how to share the Four Spiritual Laws booklet has resulted in many village neighbors coming to personal faith in Jesus Christ.



WHY WAIT? training contributes to Mtakatana Secondary School students being selected to attend the university. In 2015 only 3 students were chosen, Once WHY WAIT? was launched in 2016, 6 were selected. In 2017 the total jumped to 16.



Joster (in the yellow shirt) is visiting his sister and her husband. He wants SAFE to show them the JESUS Film. He is was reached by SAFE as a prison inmate and was released in January. He is leading a new life since his decision to follow Jesus Christ.

Giving a blanket seems like such a small act of love, but a survey of our gogos reveals that it is often their most prized possession.



Gogo Grandmothers

Early Childhood Development

Education & Youth Development



SAFE IN MALAWI

Evangelism Discipleship

Rooted in its spiritual mission, SAFE's ministry programs focus in these areas

The Why Wait? curriculum, now taught in 38 more public schools by 151 newly trained teachers, shows students that they are special, created in the image of God and loved by Him. They learn how Jesus offers them forgiveness and a new life.

By providing secondary school fees, SAFE helped Chronolial Raphael pass the 2019 Malawi School Certificate of Education exam and become an assistant teacher in Nkhatabay. He is grateful and says the lessons learned in his SAFE community helped him to succeed.



Gabriel shared, "Why Wait? Bible teachings are helping me to understand the real meaning of life. There are a lot of misconceptions in the villages. Why Wait? taught me that I am special to God." Gabriel wants to finish school and become a pastor.

Dorothy became pregnant and dropped out of school. Sadly, after giving birth, her baby died. Members of our Chipayika SAFE Life Youth Club and Parenting Group encouraged her to return to school. Dorothy later took her exams and today she is one of only two students selected to attend a national secondary school.



As a follow-up to receiving Jesus Christ, the *Walking with Jesus* film was shown 60 times this year to village gogos, students and prisoners.



"After going through village initiation rites," student Zinyalala said, "I took everything they taught me as good and became very naughty. But the Why Wait? Life Skills lessons helped me realize how lost I was. I decided to take the word of God seriously and change." Zinyalala now respects everyone at school. Even his teachers testify that he is a completely changed youth!



**G**ogos are heroes of their communities, filling the gap as nurturers of the family for the next generation that has lost their parents. Each week in SAFE communities, groups of grandparents meet together to sing, read the Bible, pray, talk, and learn. This gives them the strength to encourage and support each other, and to care for the next generation that is depending upon them.

We provided seed and fertilizer for their garden plot, blankets during the cold months and educational opportunities for their grandchildren.



## GOGO GRANDPARENT SUPPORT

- **IMPACT:** 2,390 gogos are presently being assisted in 12 village communities. 47 gogo homes were rebuilt after the 2019 cyclone with generous donor funds.
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Sponsorships are needed for gogos. This provides for all the SAFE programs in her village.
- **ACTION:** Sponsor a gogo in a village for a gift of \$30 a month.



*L to R:* A gogo meeting, blanket distribution, gogo cooking on a fuel-efficient stove, donating maize for preschool meals, growing maize, and at home in one of the 47 cyclone-distroyed and rebuilt homes.





# SAFE HAVEN

9,825 participants were in SAFE Haven activities this year including football, netball, volleyball, chess, dance, drama, drawing, sewing, knitting, Bible study, tutoring, counseling and team building!

**S**AFE Haven was established in 2012 with the aim of reaching Zomba City children and youth with the gospel of Christ by providing them with high quality child and youth services. The ministry takes place from a refurbished, 40' shipping container that has become a "kid magnet" in Zomba City's public park.



# EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

**T**he *JESUS Film*, *Magdalena* film and 60 showings of *Walking with Jesus* films were shown in villages, schools and 3 prisons. Follow-up programs are ongoing.

**70** pastors and community members from two regions were trained in evangelism & discipleship.



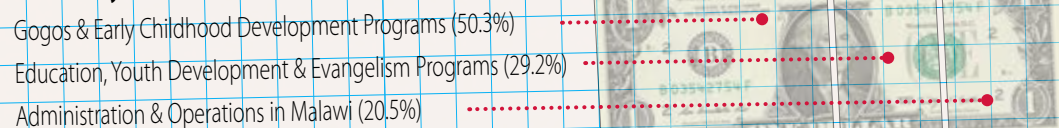
**P**risn Ministry 2,207 inmates were involved in SAFE's prison programs this year. 366 attended the Bible course and 63 received certificates for finishing. Before they were released, ten inmates (4 women and 6 men) accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. They were changed—some joined ministries near their homes and have asked SAFE to visit and encourage them.

**H**ospital Outreach The "guardian shelter" is where anxious relatives gather as they care for hospitalized loved ones. They are given hope as SAFE prays with them, comforts them, and answers questions about Jesus Christ. During the year, 348 people watched the *JESUS Film*, and were encouraged by the word of God.



# SAFE/GOGO GRANDMOTHERS BY THE NUMBERS IN 2019

## Here's how your donation dollar is used in Malawi:



### Gogo Grandmothers

- 2,390** Registered gogos
- 2,257** Gogos received seed and fertilizer
- 17** Gogo village groups spread across 12 community areas
- 47** Gogo homes rebuilt
- 2,260** Gogos received a new blanket

### Early Childhood Development

- 20** SAFE Community-Based Childcare Centers (preschools)
- 2,216** Children enrolled in SAFE's preschools
- 88** Preschool caregivers
- 44** Preschool cooks
- 20** Story tellers
- 3** New preschools constructed
- 5** Playgrounds built

### Education and Youth Development

- 151** Why Wait? teachers trained
- 10,709** New Why Wait? students being taught
- 13** SAFE Life Youth Clubs
- 563** SLY Club participants
- 12** Parenting & Mothers Groups
- 133** Students receiving secondary school fees

### Support Activity in the U.S.

- 14** Gogo groups + **9** Church supporters
- 4,327** volunteer hours reported

Thank You!

### Evangelism and Discipleship

- 25** Trained in evangelism
- 45** Pastors trained to disciple community members
- 925** Primary students watched the *JESUS Film*
- 827** Involved in film follow-up discipleship
- 410** people in 10 Mailbox Clubs (gogos & youth)
- 31** Teachers trained to run after school Bible clubs
- 2207** Prison inmates involved in SAFE programs
- 63** Prison inmates completed the Mailbox Club Bible course
- 348** Hospital guardians watched *JESUS Film*

## LOOKING AHEAD INTO 2020

These four programs are among SAFE's goals for growth in 2020. We invite your prayers and support.

- 1. WHY WAIT?...** Train 300 teachers to deliver our very effective WHY WAIT? Truth for Youth Life Skills Curriculum in 50 more schools! Why Wait? is making a huge impact in Malawian schools! It gives teachers tools to see children's lives changed by Jesus Christ as they make choices to follow His plan for their lives.
- 2. BUILD...** Expand our new BUILD program (Building Biblical Understanding in Literacy Development) from the three pilot preschools (CBCCs) in 2019 to all 20 CBCCs. Create Bible story books in Chichewa for preschoolers.
- 3. BAMBOO...** Provide bamboo plants to gogos. Malawi is quickly being deforested by population growth and dwindling land space. SAFE will help each of our gogos plant a "special exotic bamboo woodlot." Due to its fast growth and renewability a gogo can have cooking fuel for her family and for the preschool. SAFE gogos will begin planting bamboo before the 2020 rainy season. A gogo can be provided with 5 bamboo starter plants for \$10.
- 4. SPONSORS...** 200 monthly program sponsors are needed at: [gogograndmothers.com/become-a-sponsor](http://gogograndmothers.com/become-a-sponsor)



### Get more involved!

Visit [GogoGrandmothers.com](http://GogoGrandmothers.com) to learn more & become a donor.

Call **760-500-4311**, or write:  
SAFE/Gogo Grandmothers  
3460 Marron Road, Suite 103-476  
Oceanside, CA 92056-4675





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**SAFE**



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