

The pandemic  
that divided our year  
couldn't touch  
God's faithfulness!  
Come see...

# 2020 SAFE/GOGO REPORT



**SAFE**

Sub-Saharan Family Enrichment



# 20/20

#SEEING LIKE JESUS

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*"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." - Isaiah 1:17*

was this year's theme well before COVID-19 shook up the world and disrupted SAFE's ministry programs in all three regions of Malawi Africa. Schools closed, and large public gatherings were banned, but our staff saw a fresh opportunity to meet the immediate needs of people. God's love and faithfulness were evidenced time and time again.

As reported here, "Seeing Like Jesus" involved much prayer, love and action--both here and in Malawi. Gratefully, none of our staff has become infected and the COVID death toll in the entire country remains under 200.

Thank you for helping make possible these stories and impacts, both "BC" (Before COVID) and "DC" (During COVID). Please share in our joy and thankfulness.



Part of the SAFE staff team in Malawi

In His love for the least,

Leslie Lewis  
U.S. Coordinator for SAFE Africa & Gogo Grandmothers

## Strategic, heartfelt ministry in four impact areas...

Before COVID **BC** During COVID **DC**



**SAFE** (Sub-Saharan Africa Family Enrichment) serves in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. Malawi is often called the "Warm Heart of Africa". Our supporters partner with SAFE to enable these core ministries...

1. Support for the gogos (grandmothers) caring for Malawi's orphans
2. Early Childhood Development through village preschools (CBCs)
3. Education & Youth Development (including the **Why Wait?** Life Skills Curriculum) in schools
4. Evangelism and Discipleship, the vital holistic core in each of these ministries

# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

...of such is the Kingdom of Heaven

Young village children are fed and educated five days a week in SAFE's 20 Community Based Childcare Centers (preschools). Children learn they are special and loved by Jesus.

**Before COVID** 88 caregivers (teachers), 22 Gogo storytellers and 44 cooks worked in 20 CBCCs 5 days a week to provide a place for 2,470 children to thrive! Children were greatly improving their literacy and numeracy because of SAFE's new BUILD program --Building Biblical Understanding In Literacy Development.

**Gogos** who had been given fertilizer and seed donated 427 (50 kg) bags from their 2020 harvest to help feed the children in their local village CBCCs.

**Parents** were taught biblical parenting skills for raising healthy, emotionally-mature children.



# During COVID

CBCCs were forced to close. Children lost their meal at school. Households couldn't afford breakfast, leaving children in danger of malnutrition. SAFE gave a six-month supply of nutritious porridge food packs to each of the 2,470 children to eat at their homes.

In October, government guidelines were given to safely reopen CBCCs for *only* 5 year-olds to help prepare them for primary school. 88 caregivers have been trained on how to conduct those classes.

- **IMPACT:** 1. Since we began, over 13,800 children have passed through SAFE's CBCCs and are measurably more successful in primary school.
- 2. SAFE plans to make the BUILD program available for government and non-governmental agencies to implement throughout Malawi.
- 3. By distributing the nutritious porridge, children are being saved from malnutrition.
- **OPPORTUNITY:** 1. Help fund the producing of Chichewa Bible storybooks for preschoolers so they can be introduced to literacy and the Bible in their own language.
- 2. Fund a playground made from local materials.



# GOGO GRANDMOTHERS SUPPORT...widows in their distress...

**BC**  
Before COVID

Large Gogo groups were meeting regularly in 17 villages to hear the Bible taught, pray, sing, and plan ways of meeting each other's needs. Because SAFE gave them money to buy fertilizer and seed in 2019, they gave back, donating maize from their harvest to feed the children in the preschools.

SAFE works to encourage the gogos in a village spiritually, physically and relationally. Gogos are some of the poorest of the poor in Malawi. Having lost their own adult children, they must now raise, feed, educate and love their orphaned grandchildren.



2,264 gogos were each given 30 bars of soap and trained to have a hand-washing station at their homes to help combat COVID-19—also diarrhea, cholera and typhoid.

**DC**  
During COVID

In November 2020, seed and fertilizer support was again given to all the gogos to improve their food security for 2021/2022.

The Kachindamoto gogos grew summer rice along the banks of a river. They hope to sell the rice and buy a few pigs to raise and pass on to one another.

- **IMPACT:** 2,264 gogos in 17 villages are assisted. This also blesses all the children in their care.
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Sponsor a village gogo for a gift of \$30 or \$15 a month.



One gogo wanted her picture taken saying, "Tell sponsors that this gogo you see doesn't know how to thank you for what you have done."

# EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT...plans to prosper you...to give you hope and a future.

SAFE knows the importance of working with youth! The median age in Malawi is 16.5 years. 66% of the population is under 24 years of age. They are the future of Malawi.

**Before COVID** **SAFE's Why Wait? Truth for Youth** Life Skills Curriculum teaches students a Christian worldview so they can make healthy, biblical and moral choices regarding their futures. It is government approved, so it can be taught in both primary and secondary schools.

Both students' and teachers' lives are transformed. Studies show that dropout rates due to pregnancy and early marriage are lowered, and testing pass rates rise significantly..

Before COVID, training of teachers and monitoring of progress continued. 45 new schools were added. 201 teachers were trained and monitored. 14,340 students were being reached in classrooms.



**100 orphaned grandchildren** were given school fees for secondary school (high school). 6 who graduated have the opportunity to go on to university, teachers college or technical, nursing or agricultural schools.

**Parenting Groups** helped teen mothers learn parent-ing skills and return to school.



## Safe Life Youth Clubs **During COVID**

were active with 498 participants, even when schools were closed. Their mission is to follow Jesus, encourage one another and serve their 13 different communities.

Some of their activities included sewing school uniforms and face masks, bee keeping, goat sharing, helping poor gogos, planting 8,980 trees to help with reforestation--and selling what they grow to buy school supplies for youth who are rescued from forced/early marriages!

→ **IMPACT:** Why Wait? brings students to faith in Christ. When COVID kept students home, pregnancies and early marriages soared in Malawi, but not with our kids in SAFE Life Youth Clubs. Village chiefs took note of this and asked the club members to visit other villages to share Why Wait? principles with them.

→ **OPPORTUNITY:** Help provide a school with Why Wait? Life Skills training for 5 teachers (\$190), curriculum books (\$6.50ea) or a Chichewa Bible (\$10.50). Help fund soccer uniforms for SAFE Life Youth clubs.

# EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

...go and make disciples...

Sharing the gospel and seeing people grow in their faith is at the heart of all SAFE does to meet the spiritual needs of people in gogo groups, youth clubs, schools, prisons, and hospitals within SAFE communities. This is done person-to-person and through *The Jesus Film*, the Talking Bible and Mailbox Clubs/Bible Clubs.



**Before COVID** **1,144 students** watched *The Jesus Film* in primary schools, and 32 teachers got involved running 16 after-school Bible Clubs (Mailbox Clubs) for those students. These clubs bring students to a saving knowledge of Jesus and spiritual maturity as they are disciplined through different Bible courses.

Before COVID restrictions, 73 village leaders were trained in personal evangelism and discipleship, and 2,327 people were reached with the gospel in the villages.

20 inmates from 2 prisons were also trained in Evangelism and Discipleship, and 1,083 inmates from three prisons were involved in SAFE's activities.

2,201 gogos watched *The Jesus Film*, *Walking with Jesus* and *The Bible* films and also participated in Bible studies and prayer walks together.



**During COVID** **591 inmates** in 3 prisons received soap from SAFE as a Covid-19 prevention measure. Our staff also shared about the power of Jesus to heal, save and restore their lives.

Kachindamoto Evangelism and Discipleship members are now meeting in small groups to praise, pray and share the gospel. All the COVID-19 preventive measures are being followed.

- **IMPACT:** Inmates in the prisons who are trained in evangelism and discipleship come from different districts in the country, and when they get released can continue with the work of the Lord wherever they go!
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Provide a "Talking Bible" for groups of new Christians gathering to grow in their faith. \$50 provides the audio player and study materials.

# SAFE HAVEN

*Train up a child...*

SAFE Haven is an outreach center that uses a remodeled shipping container and a refurbished playground to conduct an awesome program for kids! Zomba City children and youth develop physically, cognitively, emotionally and spiritually to become a responsible, God-fearing generation.

**Before COVID** Thousands of junior and senior kids participated in devotions, tutoring, Bible study, sports, sewing, drama, dance, counseling and art. Both parents and teachers saw many positive changes in the children.



**During COVID** Children were not allowed to attend activities at SAFE Haven for many months. So SAFE Haven started a Christian radio program for children. Textbooks are being supplied to children—a very rare gift in Malawi—so they can study at home.



→ **IMPACT:** During the last year, 14,424 children participated in SAFE Haven activities.

→ **OPPORTUNITY:** Pray for the city to grant a long lease on the property where SAFE Haven is located so better sports fields, a classroom and library can be added.

# SUPPORT AT HOME

*Prayer and Care*

**13 faithful Gogo groups** in the U.S. and one in Australia gather regularly to pray and to plan events that promote and generate financial support for the ministries of SAFE in Malawi. Some groups are part of a church family and others are community based. Without these efforts, the work in Malawi could not continue.



**During COVID** COVID stopped our mission trips and all planned fundraisers for 2020! However, groups started meeting on Zoom, and it wasn't long before some put on their masks and got creative with garage sales, tailgate sales, Cash for Corn, making masks, Mother's Day basket sales and a virtual party for the gogos' gardens! 3,519 volunteer hours were reported.

Along with individual donors and sponsors, funds raised made it possible to buy soap, fertilizer and seed for 2,264 gogos and nutritional food packs to feed 2,470 children a meal each day for six months.

→ **OPPORTUNITY:** If you want to explore adopting a village with a group of friends and begin a small Gogo group, please e-mail [leslie@gogograndmothers.com](mailto:leslie@gogograndmothers.com) with your questions about how to get started.

Jesus told us to go and make disciples and to care for the poor -- especially widows and orphans. That is what a Gogo Group does!



# BY THE NUMBERS IN 2020

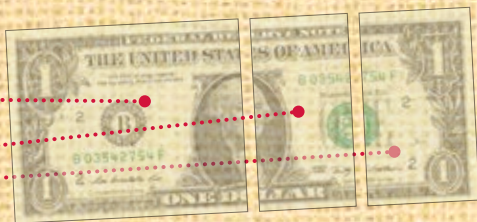
...and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

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

Gogos & Early Childhood Development Programs

Education, Youth Development & Evangelism Programs

Administration & Operations in Malawi



## Gogo Grandmothers

- 17 Gogo village groups spread across 12 community areas
- 2,264 Registered gogos
- 2,264 Gogos received seed and fertilizer
- 2,264 Gogos received soap and COVID training

## Early Childhood Development

- 20 SAFE Community-Based Childcare Centers (preschools)
- 2,470 Children enrolled in SAFE's preschools
- 2,470 Received food packs to prevent malnutrition
- 88 Caregivers
- 44 Preschool cooks
- 22 Story tellers
- 3 New preschools constructed
- 4 Preschools repaired

## Education and Youth Development

- 201 Why Wait? teachers mentored & trained
- 45 New schools
- 14,340 Students reached
- 13 SAFE Life Youth Clubs
- 12 SAFE Parenting Groups
- 100 Orphans receiving secondary school fees
- 6 Advanced Education Students
- 14,424 Kids in SAFE Haven activities

## Evangelism and Discipleship

- 73 Village leaders trained in evangelism and discipleship
- 1,144 Watched the *JESUS Film* in schools
- 32 Teachers running after-school Bible Clubs in 16 schools
- 2,327 Reached with Gospel in villages
- 1083 Prison inmates involved in SAFE programs
- 2,201 Gogos and 284 hospital guardians watched the *JESUS Film*, *Walking With Jesus*, *Magdalena* and *The Bible* films

## LOOKING AHEAD



Growth in these 4 programs are among SAFE's goals in 2021. We invite your prayers and support.

1. **GOGO SPONSORS...** Add 150 monthly sponsors to assist more gogos caring for orphans and vulnerable children. A sponsorship also helps cover expenses for little children attending the preschool in the gogo's village. [www.gogograndmothers.com/become-a-sponsor](http://www.gogograndmothers.com/become-a-sponsor)
2. **WHY WAIT?...** Train 200 more teachers to deliver our WHY WAIT? Truth for Youth Life Skills Curriculum in 50 more primary and secondary schools and reach 15,000 more students. Also, set up counseling for students, especially girls, who were abused or forced into early marriages during the COVID shutdown. We want to walk through the open school doors in Malawi to teach biblical truth.
3. **BUILD...** Expand the BUILD program (Building Biblical Understanding in Literacy Development) from the three pilot preschools (CBCCs) to all 20 CBCCs. Create Bible story books in Chichewa for preschoolers.
4. **BAMBOO...** Provide bamboo plants to more gogos next planting season. Malawi is quickly being deforested by population growth and dwindling land space. SAFE hopes to help gogos plant a "special bamboo woodlot." Due to its fast growth and renewability, a gogo can have cooking fuel for her family and for the preschool. A gogo can be provided with 5 bamboo starter plants for \$10.



## 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







Jesus sees a world where God's love and faithfulness is mightier than any virus! You are invited to become a part of sharing his love through these SAFE ministries in Malawi Africa.

"Heavenly Father, I praise you that no person ever created escapes your view. You hear every cry of the poor and you are there. Help me join with you...to see what you see...and to know my part in meeting the needs you see so clearly."



Be informed. Be inspired. Be grateful. Find **KERNELS** in your inbox each month.

Just visit **GogoGrandmothers.com** and enter your email address at the bottom of the page.