



Voices of

WOMEN

From Malawi ... **Your 2023 SAFE/GOGO REPORT**



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“...You are the God who sees me.”
— Genesis 16:13



has guided us through 2023. God knew we would need “Jesus glasses” to see His response to the suffering caused by Cyclone Freddy and a devastating 44% devaluation of the Malawi currency. How would Jesus’ Good News overcome months of terrible news?

This report is filled with PRAISE because we saw God answer that question. Again, before our very eyes, He made possible what seemed to be impossible.

Thank you for being part of this LOVE SEES story of PRAISE through your prayers and gifts!

In His love for the least,
Leslie Lewis
U.S. Coordinator for SAFE& Gogo Grandmothers

SAFE Malawi Team: Lameck, Brenda, Precious, Ben, Timaleni, Mary, Sydney, Aaron and Cathy. *Not pictured:* Michael & Gloria



“I PRAISE God for being able to serve on the SAFE staff team. Rather than having to hide or feel ostracized for my faith in Christ, I can let it shine and flourish. Our team supports and prays for each other and offers spiritual insight during challenging times such as these.

As SAFE’s Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, I report on all our ministry programs—but I also praise God that I get to actively participate and see firsthand the lives of children, teachers, youth, adults and elderly gogos impacted by Jesus’ love. Every number I report represents someone loved by God who we are privileged to minister to spiritually, educationally, and materially.

I am full of praise for the people who have come alongside this ministry to help us be the hands and feet of Jesus here in Malawi.”

Precious Ntibula
SAFE’s Monitoring and Evaluation Officer



PRAISE

The four vital program areas of SAFE:
(Sub-Saharan Africa Family Enrichment)

1. **Gogo Grandmothers** (grandparents) caring for orphans and vulnerable children
2. **Early Childhood Development** through village preschools
3. **Education & Youth Development** (8-year Why Wait? Life Skills Curriculum in schools and at SAFE Haven Youth Center)
4. **Evangelism and Discipleship** throughout in villages, schools and prisons

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PRAISE

"I praise you God for seeing how faithfully you provide for the little children in our preschools—and to know that you love each one! Thank you for the dedicated caregivers and cooks who teach and feed them. I also praise you for the privilege of seeing the children grow in their love for You — their love for learning — and their love for one another!"

Brenda Lisimba

SAFE's Community Supervisor in Malawi's Southern Region

2,500 children were enrolled in SAFE's 20 village preschools. 92 teachers, 44 cooks and 20 storytellers surrounded these children with God's love and truth and the joy of learning.



Praise! 2 Chichewa preschool books with a 3rd in the works!

Praise: Being a CBCC cook has enabled her to pay my children's school fees and buy fertilizer and seed for their food security.

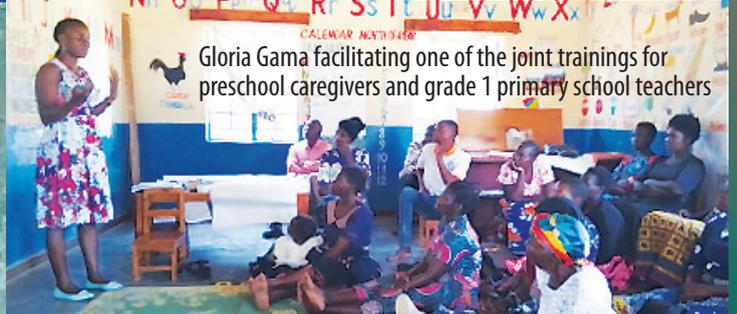


Washing their hands with soap kills germs, and educates their sense of smell and touch.



Children discovering this week's alphabet letter.

PRAISE
Teachers say children enrolling in primary school from a SAFE CBCC are a joy. They become the group leaders to teach other children.



Gloria Gama facilitating one of the joint trainings for preschool caregivers and grade 1 primary school teachers

IMPACT: 450,000 meals served to preschool children due to SAFE's fertilizer program for gogos. They share part of their harvest to feed the children.

SAFE has some of the best-trained, long-serving preschool teachers in Malawi because we pay a small allowance to help provide for their own families.

626 village children graduated to primary school equipped socially, spiritually, and educationally to be lifelong learners.

I am Gabriel, grad of a SAFE CBCC. From that great start, plus Why Wait? teachers in my schools along the way, I passed my Malawi School Certificate of Education with distinctions.



GOGO GRANDMOTHERS PRAISE

"I praise you Lord for the opportunity to team up with village gogos (grandmothers) and see them graduating from a state of hopelessness to one of hopefulness and seeing many children in the villages raised to their full potential. I am so grateful for this opportunity to serve You!"

Mary Phiri

Director of Early Childhood Development
and Gogo Grandmothers

PRAYER POINT

There is a food crisis in Malawi. 892 gogos will need 25kg of maize each month, January thru March. (1 gogo/3 months \$75 or 1 month \$25)



Voices of praise from 2,257 gogos who received the extra materials they needed to make their Mbeya compost fertilizer!



IMPACT: ■ 36 homes are being built for gogos who lost their homes in Cyclone Freddy.
■ 2257 gogos in 12 communities received training & materials for Mbeya fertilizer composting.
■ Even with a poor harvest gogos gave maize to the CBCCs to help make porridge for the children.
■ 2,313 gogos watched films: *Magdalena & Walking w/Jesus.*



What Cyclone Freddy destroyed, SAFE has rebuilt.



I am Gogo Iness, and I **PRAISE** God that when we were sick from malaria, you sent **SAFE** to give us mosquito nets, and when we were cold they gave us blankets. Now they are constructing Gogo homes destroyed by Cyclone Freddy. **SAFE** is training us to make compost manure so we can feed ourselves and the children in our **SAFE** village preschools. I also praise you God for the Gogo meetings where your Word feeds me spiritually.



Regular prayers when gogos gather together

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PRAISE

"I praise God for His faithfulness, I call Him Yahweh El ROI, Yahweh El Shaddai! He protected me for a mission to mentor and train teachers who plant seeds in students to know who they are in God Almighty. I praise God for letting me witness confused students change and become people. I praise God for helping me witness teachers share their troubled souls and receive Christ through their Bible preparations to teach students Why Wait?"

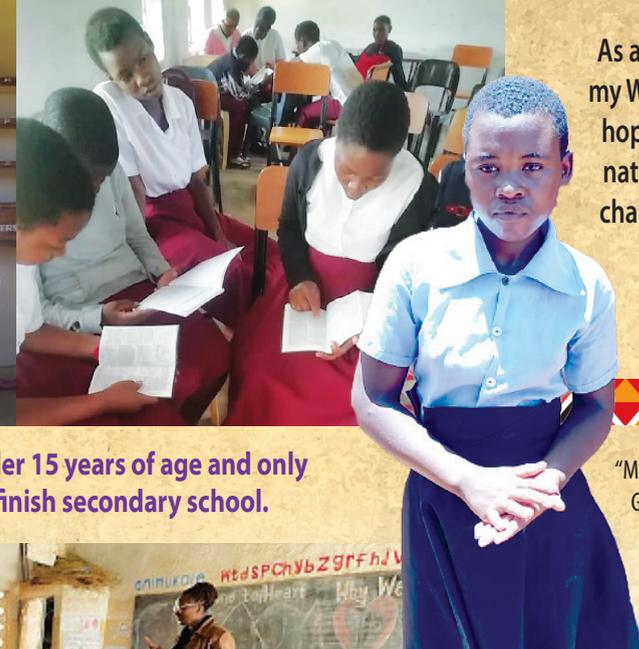
Cathy Cheonga
Why Wait? National Program Manager



Experiencing the power of discussion and interactive learning



Praise God, we have Bibles to reference for our Why Wait? lessons!



As a teacher, I praise God that my Why Wait? training gave me hope for our community and nation through student lives changed morally and socially by Why Wait? lessons applied in their lives!"
— *Minnie Balaka*

50% of Malawi's population is under 15 years of age and only a tiny fraction of students will finish secondary school.

"My name is Elise Mkandawire. I praise God that Why Wait? has helped me understand my worth to God. I am now able to read scriptures on my own and pray."



New teachers are trained at an initial 4-day Why Wait? training.

- IMPACT:** ■ 45 schools implement WW?. 11 new schools will be added soon.
- 185 teachers are reaching 11,266 students
 - Why Wait? teachers also mentor SAFE's bursary students who can't afford school fees. 100% passed their Malawi School Certificate of Education examinations this year.

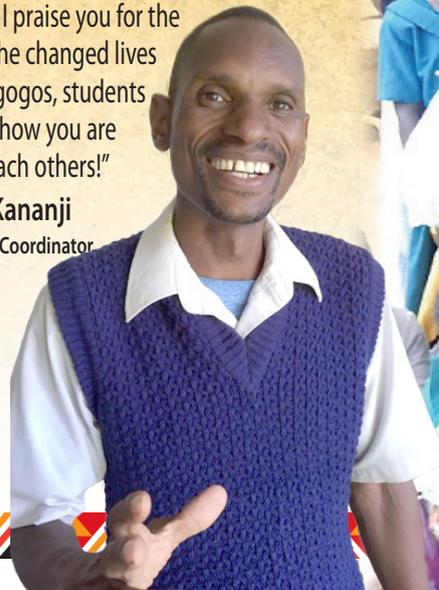


EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP PRAISE

"I praise God for calling me to be part of His hands and feet in sharing God's love and truth in my country of Malawi! I praise you Lord, for those you have raised up this year in the villages, schools and prisons who are dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ! I praise you for the fruit we are seeing in the changed lives of community leaders, gogos, students and inmates—and how you are using them to reach others!"

Lameck Kanaji

Evangelism and Discipleship Coordinator



One of SAFE's after-school Bible Mailbox Clubs reached out with clothes and school uniforms to 16 needy students in their school.



Lake Chilwa Evangelism Team preparing to personally share the gospel



Enala Nyirenda shared, "We are so thankful for *The Jesus Film* equipment, as we are able to go out and see people give their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our lives are also being transformed because of the film and the trainings.

To boldly share the gospel and lovingly disciple those who respond is at the heart of all SAFE's programs!

Three SAFE programs share the love of Jesus and raise up disciples:

1. Village Evangelism & Discipleship Teams (including *Jesus Film* showings)
2. After-School Bible Clubs
3. Prison Evangelism & Discipleship



Chief learning to share the Gospel

IMPACT: ■ 140 Chichewa Bibles distributed. ■ 1,249 students watched *The Story of Jesus for Children* film. ■ 2,313 gogos watched the *Walking with Jesus* or *Magdalena* films. ■ Going door-to-door, 45 people accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. ■ 420 chiefs and spouses came for prayers and to see 2 of the *Walking With Jesus* films. ■ 60 inmates from 2 prisons attended the Evangelism and Discipleship training.

PRAISE

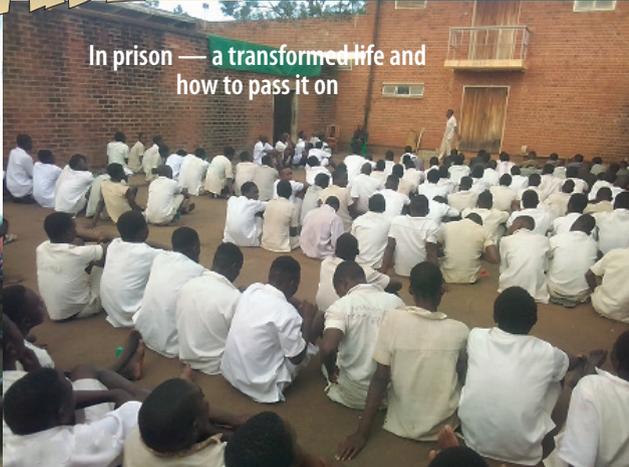
Mbando Evangelism Team thankful for their new Bibles



Villagers watch *The Jesus Film*



In prison — a transformed life and how to pass it on



SAFE HAVEN PRAISE

"I praise God for the huge number of children the Holy Spirit is pulling in to participate in our activities at SAFE Haven. In 2016, we used to beg children to come. In 2023, the numbers have been overwhelming. This is God's power at work. My passion always is to see little children growing up in Christ and becoming responsible citizens who society can depend upon."

Aaron Gondwe
SAFE Haven Coordinator



Math tutoring



I came to SAFE Haven for sports, games, tutoring and art. As a Muslim, devotions were not my favorite; now they are. I PRAISE God that I met Christ as my Savior, and that changed everything. I know God loves me and hears my prayers. I understand the Bible better. SAFE Haven tutoring has really helped me in school!

IMPACT: ■ 16,129 participants in Youth Center activities.
■ 9 Volunteers mentored in youth ministry.
■ 45 Active members in the Parents Group.
■ Students given encouragement and counseling returned to school after dropping out.



STEPS Zoom English tutoring sessions with U.S. educators... a huge win!



Field trips help kids trust God for bigger dreams



Tuesday sports day

SUPPORT AT HOME PRAISE



Tea with a Purpose



Annual Malawi Walkabout Fun-Raiser



Charlotte Day & Josh McDowell share Why Wait? history

Donors, along with 10 Gogo Groups in the U.S. and 1 in Australia, provide sustaining prayer and financial support for SAFE ministries in Malawi. Thank you for giving your time, talent and treasure in 2023—including over 9,380 volunteer hours and 14 fundraising events.



California Wine & Cheese Fundraiser



Lunch & Meet Cathy Cheonga



Music for Malawi Concert in Australia

PRAISE BY THE NUMBERS in 2023

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

- 2,378 Registered gogos from 13 communities
- 2,257 Gogos received materials for fertilizer composting
- 36 Houses constructed for gogos affected by Cyclone Freddy
- 17 Students rescued from entering an early marriage and returned to school

Early Childhood Development

- 20 CBCCs (preschools)
- 2,500 Children enrolled
- 92 Trained preschool teachers
- 44 Cooks
- 626 Children graduated to Primary Schools from the 20 CBCCs

Education and Youth Development

- 185 Why Wait? teachers trained & classrooms monitored
- 45 Schools presently implementing Why Wait?
- 11,266 Students reached with Why Wait? lessons
- 1,000 WW? books distributed
- 5 Students receiving secondary school fees passed key Malawi School Certificate Exam



SAFE Haven

- 16,129 Youth Center activity participants
- 45 Active members in the parenting group
- 5 Students completed STEPS English proficiency sessions

Evangelism and Discipleship

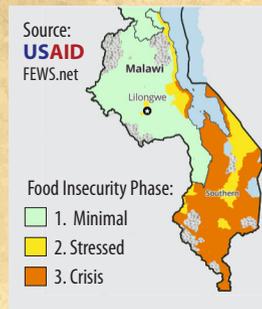
- 94 People trained in Evangelism and Discipleship
- 5,134 Attended *The Jesus Film* outreach showings
- 3,867 Gogos attended *The Jesus Film & Walking With Jesus*
- 618 Students participated in after school Mailbox Club activities
- 60 Inmates trained in Evangelism and Discipleship
- 276 Inmates & officers watched *Walking With Jesus* film

LOOKING AHEAD



Growth in these 4 programs are among SAFE's goals in 2024. We invite your prayers and support.

1



A-maize-ing Rescue... Because Cyclone Freddy destroyed crops, and fertilizer has become scarce and very expensive, there is a real food crisis in Southern Malawi (see map). To survive, 892 of our registered village gogos will need 25kg of maize each month, January thru March. Supplying one gogo family for 3 months costs \$75 (\$25 per month). Donate at: gogograndmothers.com/rescue

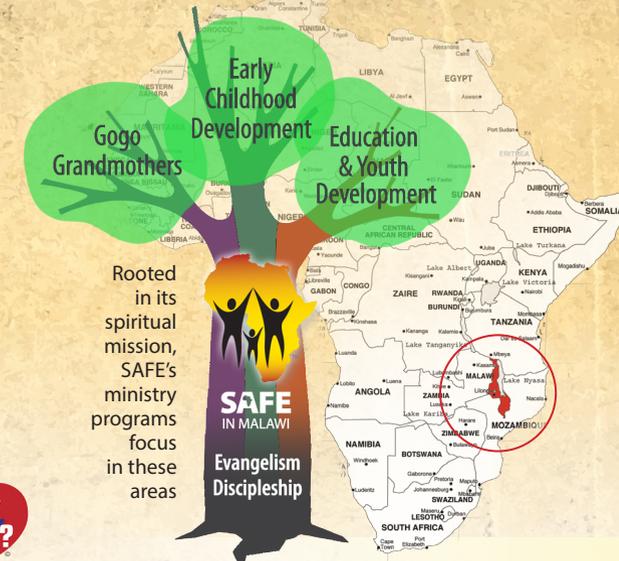
2

Why Wait? in Schools... Continue the expansion of Why Wait? Life-Skills Curriculum into 11 more schools. 145 teachers will be trained—including 45 new teachers. Approximately 13,000 more students will have the opportunity to form a biblical worldview—to become wise in their decisions and relationships, and servant leaders in their communities. To see the impactful lesson topics in this 8 grade-level curriculum, use your phone to scan this QR code:



3

SAFE/Gogo Groups... More SAFE/Gogo groups are needed to help sponsor a village. Let us know if your church or community would be interested in knowing more about this! Remember, "You don't need to be a gogo to help a gogo!" Call or text to find out more... 750-500-4311



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

Get more involved!



Visit GogoGrandmothers.com to learn more & become a donor. Call 760-500-4311, or write:



SAFE/Gogo Grandmothers
PO Box 2531
Vista, CA 92083

GogoGrandmothers.com



Thank you for reading this SAFE/Gogo 2023 report.

Keep PRAISE-ing!

More inspiration is coming...

Be curious ■ Be grateful ■ Be informed

Please Invite **KERNELS** to your favorite inbox.

No spam. Just thoughtful, heartfelt news from Malawi.

Simply text: "**Kernels**" to **760-500-4311**

Be sure to include your name and email address.

