

"All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along." Galatians 2:10



The gogos and their grandchildren are now living in good houses rebuilt after the cyclone. Thank you to our donors!

Homes

On Feb. 6th, SAFE team members met with all the chiefs and community leaders about rebuilding the 37 gogo homes that were destroyed. They agreed to collaborate. The villagers made and fired the bricks and supplied the labor. We provided roofing tin, glass, nails, hinges, etc. Each house is 13 by 20 feet, and costs about \$365 in materials.

The Joseph Project



Though our main mission is education, discipleship and development, because of the food crisis, we needed to respond to this emergency—knowing the gogos and children would face hunger and even starvation this year. We named it "The Joseph Project," remembering when Joseph stored up grain in Egypt (Africa) for the famine that was coming.

In 2015 Maize was very difficult to find, but we prayed, and were able to buy and store enough maize in a safe place to distribute 25KG bags to the Zomba gogos in December. (Lake Chilwa, Kachindamoto and Luzi will receive assistance in January.) One chief said, "I am very grateful to our sponsors because they are helping to feed my gogos—"a responsibility which is mine"—but I cannot do it, because I too need help."

Fertilizer and Seed

The cost of fertilizer quadrupled in 2015, but God provided exactly what was needed through donors. We were able to give fertilizer and seed money to all 2,017 registered gogos just before Christmas. What seemed impossible became possible! The new maize is growing, and we are praying for a good harvest in April/May.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Feeding Babies



Nine babies in our sponsored villages are currently receiving formula to help keep them alive. Many other babies in Malawi don't have access to formula. Sadly, three orphaned

babies have died in Kachindamoto because of Malaria.

Community Based Childcare Centers

11,849 children have passed through our Community Based Childcare Centers in the past 10 years with over 2,200 children enrolled in 2015/2016. This is so important because -- when fighting disease, ignorance and poverty -- we must begin with a little child. We have grown from 1 sponsored CBCC under a mango tree to 18 preschools with feeding programs and 72 dedicated caregivers.



Caregiver Training in Kachindamoto

Our staff held a two-week caregiver (preschool teacher) training in Kachindamoto. It was a special challenge, as these 16 teachers have over 600 little children in their care. A government official was there to observe, and was very impressed with the quality of the training.

Early Childhood Training for Catholic Nun Educators

Mary Phiri was invited by Malawi's Ministry of Gender to help facilitate Early Childhood Development training for Catholic Nuns from all the regions in Malawi who want to start Early Childhood Development programs in their parishes.

The Widow's Mite:

Gogos brought maize from their meager harvest to feed the children at the preschools. Their harvest was very, very poor this year, but they still gave generously so that the children would be fed.

Community Based Childcare Centers being built:

Kachindamoto then and Now



Over 600 children were going to school in 3 tiny preschool buildings. Those children now attend a Community Based Childcare Center as big as the Baobab trees they gather under! This has been a wonderful collaboration between Our Savior's Church in La Fayette LA, SAFE and the villagers in Kachindamoto.

Kawiya Chiyambi

The children were meeting in an outgrown, damaged building. The villagers trusted God in new ways to use the funds we sent and their own meager

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"Blessed are those who give without remembering and take without forgetting." — Elizabeth Bibesco

Africa, the Great Omission A Call to Disciple Nations

Dick Day has written this significant book which he hopes to publish in 2016.



SAFE staff from left to right: Michael Mvundula Khumalo, Cathy Cheonga, Mary Phiri, Moira Chimombo, Brenda Sanama, Philip Mwenegamba, Benjamin Khoswe, Seated: Dick and Charlotte Day



Thank you!

Malawi has been called "The Perfect Storm of Poverty." It is also "The Warm Heart of Africa." Thank you for your elephant-sized hearts that have helped so many through the storms of 2015!

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, we praise you for your faithfulness and love that gives us strength in our sufferings. We thank you for the joy you give when we help relieve, in just a small way, the suffering of others. Help us bring your light into their lives."



These are the dedicated SAFE-Africa/Gogo Grandmothers board members who faithfully pray and give their time to this ministry.

Elephants Remember

I forget too easily, I forget there are hungry people in the world when my fridge is full, I forget there are people without doctors when I make an appointment for my next check up. I forget there are children who can't go to school as I wait behind the cross walk in front of our neighborhood school. I forget there are children whose parents won't be coming home when I babysit my own grandchildren.



Connecting: Take a minute to check out Gogo Grandmothers pictures on Instagram and to "LIKE" Gogo Grandmothers on Facebook.

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Gogo Groups

Gogos treasure their Gogo T-shirts with I John 4:11 written in Chichewa on the back. "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." When Gogo groups started, orphans began to be better cared for—the grandmothers and grandfathers raising them were no longer lonely or isolated, but came together to better care for the children and one another.



Growth and Impact

What began with a handful of gogos meeting with Charlotte Day in front of the chief's house in Makungula Village has grown to over 2,017 gogos in all 3 regions of the country.

Cyclone

In mid-January a huge cyclone hit Malawi. Many days of torrential rain swept away roads and bridges, destroying thousands of acres of crops that had recently been planted.

Our staff moved quickly to assess the damage and found that 37 of our sponsored gogos in the Zomba and Lake Chilwa/ Mopsa villages had lost their mud-brick homes in the storm.



Food Crisis

The cyclone in January washed away many gardens, and others were stunted from the drought that followed. The harvest in May was poor, and many



Dear Friend of Gogo Grandmothers and the SAFE ministry in Malawi Africa,

"Lord, Give Me the Back of an Elephant!" was our theme in 2015. The Bantu people of Malawi, Africa often pray this prayer when suffering: "Mulungu Ndi pasteni msana wa njovu." They ask for help to be strong under suffering, before they ask for it to be lifted.

Only God could have known how prophetic that theme would be! In January, the largest cyclone in the history of Malawi collapsed homes and washed away fields! Then followed drought and a poor harvest in May. Now there is a severe food crisis. 2 years ago, according to the U.N., Malawi was the 8th poorest country in the world, but at the end of 2015 Malawi was reported to be the poorest.

These challenges were our "elephants in the room" last year, but they also provided opportunities to share Jesus' love.

It's interesting that elephants attempt to use their bodies to support an injured or sick elephant so the elephant does not fall. Orphans do not expect to fall (to lose a parent), and gogos don't expect to lose the child who was going to care for her in her old age. You are part of God's plan, helping them to stand so they can walk again on their own.

As you read this report, we pray you will be blessed by some of the things you helped accomplish this year.

Pray with us that the young and the old in Malawi, will come to experience something far stronger than the back of an elephant — Christ's love for them personally!

Zikomo Kwambiri! (Thank you very much!)

Leslie Lewis

Leslie Lewis, U.S. Coordinator, for the gogos, orphans and Malawi staff



people were running out of food by December. This affects whole communities until the next harvest in April or May. It is estimated that 2.8 million Malawians (roughly 20% of the 16 million population) could face starvation in 25 of the country's 28 districts unless the government and partners move swiftly.

Emergency Supplies

Our first response was to bring comfort and essential supplies like buckets for water, cooking supplies and blankets.



"Part of our soul is missing and broken when we are not connected to the poor in our bond of human need."

Not a day passes over the earth but men and women of no note do great deeds, speak great words, and suffer noble sorrows." — Charles Reade

3 “I meant what I said and I said what I meant. An elephant’s faithful one-hundred percent!” — *Dr. Suess*

resources to build a better and stronger CBCC building than had even been planned! They were humble, but proud too... and so thankful! We saw clearly how these collaborations bring hope to children, their caregivers, and whole communities as they work to provide a better life for their children.



Thowolo 1 and 2

When funds for a roof were sent to Thowolo to replace the old grass one on their Childcare Center, it was discovered that the whole building needed replacing! The village rallied, and a year later, they finished a new building, roof and all! Their thank-you letter for the roof reads, “God is so gracious to us! This gives us evidence that all SAFE staff are there to serve with integrity in the name of Jesus Christ. The good news is that the donations are bringing new opportunities to us. And now we work together in groups, and as a family, in order to protect and educate our children. This is about freedom and good health and seeking good behavior, not just for our children, but for us.”

Bible Banners



Our Bible Banners are turning out to be a fabulous tool to teach God’s Word to children and adults! The caregivers in our CBCCs also use them to teach the children colors, counting and songs! We also gave crank operated SABOR players, complete with scripture songs, to most of our CBCCs.

Primary School

CBCC children are often the “star students” in primary school! Our prayer is that each one will walk with Jesus and serve others with their gifts!



School Fees for Orphans

Gogo Grandmothers is paying the secondary school fees for 87 orphans in our sponsored villages. Alfred lives with his grandmother, Loveness, who is advanced in years and has eyesight problems. Alfred



exceled in his primary school exams, and dreams of becoming a university lecturer.

John Kaliwo, one of our sponsored secondary school graduates is beginning his teaching practice. It brings great joy to see orphaned students begin careers that can lead them out of poverty. We covered his personal expenses which only included a bucket, cooking pot, knife, fork, spoon, plate, and cup.

SAFE-Life Youth Clubs

Our plan is to establish a Safe-Life Youth Club wherever we have a preschool and a Gogo group because we want to reach all ages for Christ. We are now working with 450 youth in our sponsored villages, and have 40 youth in leadership.

25 SAFE-Life Youth leaders from Zomba and Kachindamoto were trained using the new Training Manual they developed with our staff. They selected 17 activities that positively address real issues in their communities backed with Bible lessons.

The impact has been amazing. Some of the youth who were involved in alcohol and drug abuse, early marriages and early sex activities are now joining the clubs to learn how to become responsible young people.



They are told the Truth—that they are special to God—and that He is always ready to receive them, forgive them, and give them a new chapter in life.

This youth from Kachindamoto shared, “These Bible

4 “Difficult things take a long time, impossible things a little longer.” — *Dr. André A. Jackson*

verses are really talking to my life. I am shocked! This is the time for me to really critically think of my future! I joined the club for fun! But hmmm! This is something to protect my future!” He has also made a commitment to go back to school.

Our staff member Cathy Cheonga shared God’s Word and challenged the youth that it is possible to walk in holiness despite where they are, and that they are a light to their communities!



Community Center in Kondanani Village

A new Community Center, funded by Granada Heights Friends Church, will facilitate discipleship and skills training for youth and gogos in the Zomba area.

Child-Headed Households

Mustafa has been the “parent” to his two younger



sisters since his early teens, and is just one several child-headed households we are sponsoring. All these households have special needs and appear to have been given special courage that shows in their character!

Mail box Club

SAFE is starting discipleship programs for students in local schools through the Mailbox Club. The students are shouting for joy!



Why Wait? Curriculum in Malawian Schools

Teachers love the Why Wait? training because it equips their teaching methodology and class knowledge, and also changes their own lives. One teacher remarked, “During my youth I did not have such guidance. This material will help me, my family and my students.”

In 2015 SAFE organized WHY WAIT? Truth for Youth Life Skills curriculum trainings for private Christian secondary schools. The Education Coordinators, Chaplains and Youth Pastors from different dioceses and synods learned how to run a WHY WAIT? Teacher Training Workshop using the DVDs SAFE has prepared. This will impact hundreds of teachers and thousands of children this year.

Our WHY WAIT? orientation course for college students is the required Life Skills course for the University of Malawi.

In December teachers in Kachindamoto from several public primary and secondary schools were trained to teach the Why Wait? curriculum. One participant commented, “This is the right material to save the youth from falling into the ditch of sexually trans-

miles of rough dirt roads to get medical care. Many have died waiting for a clinic to be built and staffed. The clinic’s walls and roof are finally finished, and we are praying that the government will provide the promised supplies and staff.

5 “Give me a strong heart to bear my own burdens. Give me a willing heart to bear the burdens of others. And give me a believing heart to cast all burdens upon you.” — *John Baillie*

mitted diseases and HIV. I wish we could spread this curriculum to all corners of Malawi. Another teacher shared, “This not only enriches the mental aspect of a human being but also the spiritual aspect, which is total human transformation.”

Film Making



We had an opportunity to make some short films about the SAFE/Gogo Grandmothers’ work in Malawi. Thanks to all who

provided their time and talent and finances.

See one of the NEW Gogo Grandmothers films on YouTube.com. Search for Gogo Grandmothers “Love in Action.”

Jesus Film and Follow-Up



Our new staff member Lameck is being used of the Lord in showing “The JESUS Film” and then using “Walking with Jesus” films for follow-up — a 5-part series on basic Christianity, filmed in Africa. It is his passion that people not miss Jesus!

In Lake Chilwa, a heavily Muslim area we work in, Lameck showed the Jesus film to 1,450 people, and 480 indicated decisions



for Christ. Over 510 came to the follow-up films, and Lameck is organizing pastors to disciple those who want to follow Christ.

Jr. Gogos in the U.S.

50 enthusiastic Junior Highers from Rancho Baptist Church in Temecula have formed a Jr. Gogo Group and made a prayer list of 31 things to pray for the orphans and vulnerable children. They also sewed shorts for boys in their village and answered letters sent to them from village youth.

Creative Ideas

Our Gogo groups have held many creative fundraisers in 2015 — fashion shows... garage sales... Virtual Safari Tea Parties —and even a coffee house. In Warrnambool Australia the Gogo group held a children’s concert called, “Our Music for Malawi”.

Thanks to all the Gogo groups who pray and give their time to make a difference!

Welcome to our newest Gogo Group!

They are in Angels Camp, CA and connected with Foothills Community Church. We are excited to begin this adventure with them as they focus on the needs of gogos and children in the Lake Chilwa area, along with our Australian Gogo group!

Annual Gogo Grandmothers Retreat

We celebrated the 10th anniversary of Gogo Grandmothers and the debut of the new Gogo film. Thank you to Mariners Church and the hospitality of their Gogo Group. It was an “elephant-sized” blessing for all.



Good-bye to Dear Friends in 2015

- Don Deputy went to be with the Lord in March. He was a key person in filling and sending “The Ark” 40-foot container to Malawi in 2012. We miss you Don!

- Bobbie Johnson, our treasurer for Gogo Grandmothers for almost 10 years, left us on October 11, and slipped into the presence of Jesus. I have no doubt she heard the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

- Steve Chimombo was the beloved husband of Moira, our Executive Director for SAFE in Malawi. Steve, noted author and retired professor, died of a heart attack on December 11.



“A third of all childhood death in Sub-Saharan Africa is caused by hunger.” — *The Millennium Report 2010*

God knows that a beautiful love for Jesus will also spill out as beautiful love for the poor.” - Leslie Lewis

“Don’t think there are no crocodiles just because the water is calm.” — *African proverb*