

SAFE Training Center at Kondanani Village



The new center became a great provision in 2016 for caregiver and youth trainings, weekly meetings, showing the Jesus Films, and for gogos who were trained in bead making.

Chief's Fellowship

Michael, SAFE's Community Supervisor meets twice a month in Dedza with all the village chiefs for Bible study. The group is very strong in the Word of God, and for the first time, they asked their spouses to join the group. They now plan to start teaching people in their villages.

Shoreline Church (San Clemente) team goes to Malawi



They went to dedicate the 2 Community Based Child-care Centers in Thowolo Village that will bless many generations of children to come.

They went to bless the gogos with teaching and encouragement.

They went to share discipleship principles with pastors, elders and chiefs.

They went to instruct the caregivers of CBCCs (pre-schools) with new ways to teach the children.

They went to help the village discover its own assets and make plans and priorities for development.

They went to encourage the youth.

Women Faculty and Women Chiefs

Patricia Niednagel, a trainer for women in leadership, made a promise to Charlotte Day, who began Gogo Grandmothers. She pledged that one day she would come and speak to women leaders in Zomba. 2016 turned out to be the year! Patricia spoke at Chancellor University in Zomba, to faculty women who are extremely concerned about their children and the changing culture. Patricia also had a unique opportunity to teach from the Bible at a gathering of women chiefs. These women, who have very influential leadership roles in their villages, were greatly



encouraged.

We Welcomed 3 new U.S. Gogo Groups in ...

- Shoreline Church in San Clemente, CA
- Our Savior's Church in Lafayette, LA
- Foothills Community Church in Angels Camp, CA

Special Friends

Bill Jones, our first Board Chairman -- Peggy Daley our first Treasurer -- and Bertie Knowlton -- Co-Founder of Gogo Grandmothers all went to be with the Lord in 2016. Thank you for helping light our path!

2016 Gogo Retreat Dispersed

Instead of a Gogo retreat in one place, we gathered in many places to hear Mary Phiri (Director of Early Childhood Development/Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Gogos) and Head Chief Kachindamoto (who has annulled over 1,500 forced child-marriages). They spent 2 weeks in the U.S. speaking about their work in Malawi.



Our 11th Year Stats	
Category	2016
Malawi Regions Served	3
Village Communities Sponsored	12
Gogos Receiving Seeds, Fertilizer	2,169
Sponsored CBCCs	20
Preschool Children Served	2,426
Orphans Receiving School Fees	104
SAFE Life Youth in 12 Clubs	480
Teachers trained in Why Wait? this year: 90 teachers serving in 44 new schools	
Preschoolers cared for since we began 11 years ago: well over 12,000	



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



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Thank you!

Malawi has been called, the perfect storm of poverty, but it is also called "The Warm Heart of Africa". It is both broken and beautiful --like its people and all of us. Thank you for helping light their world in 2016!

"The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." Matt 4:17



Our Malawian staff team is talented, dedicated and enjoying larger headquarters.

In 2016 God surprised SAFE with an office in Zomba that perfectly meets their growing needs. The staff moved from a small, crowded rental space to a home they converted into their office. Surprise funds, found in a very old, forgotten bank account, made the purchase and needed repairs possible. Pictured here on the front steps of the office are our staff after giving thanks and praise to God for this wonderful and unexpected provision!

The Joseph Project

After 2 years of the worst drought in 35 years, hunger was the huge "elephant in the room" in 2016. Early on we bought and stored over 2,289 (120 lb) bags of maize for our Joseph Project to help feed the hungry gogos in our sponsored villages last January -- March of 2016.

We are always working on developing sustainable programs in our villages -- but there are times of crises that demand an emergency response. This was -- once again -- one of those times!

When the drought continued and affected the 2016 May harvest, we bought and stored 3,600 (120 lb) bags to be distributed during this 2nd hunger crisis. From December 2016 through April 2017, over 2,000 of the most needy gogos will receive a 60 lb bag of maize each month for themselves and the children in their care.



Over 8 million people are facing a food emergency in Malawi, some having nothing but boiled corn husks to fill their stomachs.

Donors to the Joseph Project are saving lives and bringing hope!

Maize Distribution

In 2016 many of the gogos would have died without the Joseph Project's help. Some of our SAFE staff were invited by the gogos at Lake Chilwa to come and be thanked for the fertilizer and maize SAFE had provided. One gogo stood up and said, "We thank SAFE very much for the gift of maize, without it most of us would have starved to death because the harvest was so very poor."



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

"Go Light Your World" was our theme throughout 2016.

Those 4 words were a call to not be afraid of the dark, but to take the light of Jesus to Malawi -- with this amazing promise before us,

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." --John 1:5

Light reveals the beautiful as well as the broken -- and Malawi had both beauty and brokenness in 2016.

When Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life", he meant it!

We go into many dark and sad places in Malawi. But, we go with the light of Jesus that brings hope to babies needing love and formula -- hope to little preschoolers needing nutrition, early education and the knowledge of Jesus' love for them -- hope to the youth needing discipleship and training -- hope to the old gogos in need of fertilizer and seed to grow their gardens -- hope to orphans in need of an education -- and hope to those who are sometimes trapped in fear-filled, destructive traditions, beliefs and behaviors.

Thank you for helping light people's lives in Malawi with Jesus' love and truth in 2016!

Leslie Lewis

Leslie Lewis, U.S. Coordinator, for Gogo Grandmothers and SAFE-Africa



Fertilizer and Seed

The rains began in December, and it was time to plant

and apply the first application of fertilizer. But this year, we were told that not all our gogos would receive the government coupons allowing them to buy 2 bags of fertilizer and seed at a discounted price. We prayed, and the 1st part of this puzzle fell into place when all 2,169 registered gogos received their coupons! The 2nd part of the puzzle was how to obtain the funds not covered by the coupons. God used many of you, through your sponsorship of a gogo or gifts to the Joseph Project, to provide hope for a bountiful harvest in May 2017.

Village Gogo Groups



When the first gogos began meeting together with Charlotte Day in 2004 in Makungula village, orphaned children began to be better cared for. The grandmothers and sometimes grandfathers caring for them were no longer isolated, but came together to pray for the children and learn how to better care for them and for one another.

What began with a handful of gogos, has grown to over 2,169 gogos meeting together, in our 13 sponsored villages located in all 3 regions of Malawi.

Spiritual Feeding

Gogo meetings focus around a practical Bible teaching and the Gogo Village Prayer Guide. Needs of the group members are shared.



Our SAFE Community Supervisor for the Kachindamoto area, with 610 gogos, shared, “Most of the gogos have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit is really changing their lives from inherited bondage such as excessive beer drinking and smoking tobacco. The attendance is high during Gogo meetings and they are also going to churches in large numbers.”

Cassava and Orange Maize

Mangani Katundu, a former student of both Dick and Charlotte Day, has a PhD in Nutrition. He is working with SAFE during his sabbatical this year to train our sponsored southern villagers and gogos to grow cassava and orange maize. Cassava is a drought-resistant root vegetable and needs no fertilizer. We are growing it in two villages to see if it is successful, and if there is a market for selling cassava flour.

Community Based Childcare Centers (Preschools)



At the heart of our mission in the villages is the opportunity to work with the young children to instill in them a love for Jesus, a love for God's Word, a love for learning and a love for one another.

We sponsor 20 Community Based Childcare Centers in 12 village areas throughout Malawi. Over 2,426 young children are being taught, loved and fed 5 days a week by 80 trained caregivers. 38 cooks get up early in the morning to carry water and wood to cook the children's

porridge for the day.

All the maize for all the preschools in 2016 was provided by the gogos -- despite knowing they would not have enough for themselves until the next harvest. This was truly an example of the “widow's mite”.

New CBCCs Begin



Luzi Village and Chipayika Village each added a new CBCC for the children who had to walk way too far to their current preschools.

These are simple structures until the community can build more permanent buildings with some donor help. A 2nd CBCC was built in Thowolo Village, and funds were donated to assist building another much-needed CBCC for 200 children in the Lake Chilwa area.

Caregiver Trainings for our CBCCs

53 caregivers (preschool teachers from the villages) attended a 2-week training in April, led by our staff -- Mary Phiri, Director of ECD and Gogo Grandmothers, and Brenda Sanama, Community Supervisor. This is the frontline of the battle to make a difference in the lives of young children in our sponsored villages. The first week was used for training and preparing teaching aids. The second week was putting into practice what

caregivers had learned as they taught, under staff supervision, in their own Community Based Childcare Centers in Tikondane, Tadziana, Chiyambi, Makungula, Simiyoni, Kondanani, Mwaiwandigwela, Lake Chilwa Mposa and Kachere villages.

This same training for the preschool teachers was repeated for all our Central and Northern sponsored villages in 2016.

New Bible Banner Curriculum

Our 10 beautiful Bible Banners have been a great teaching tool in Malawi, so we wrote a new curriculum to cover the entire school year with 10 main biblical



themes using songs, activities, art and drama. Shari Yamamoto (Little Church By the Sea) and Carol Lloyd (Saddleback Church) went to Malawi in August to train 48 caregivers and 7 coordinators for 12 Community Based Childcare Centers in the new curriculum. The banners are also used to teach simple math concepts and critical thinking to children ages 2-6.

Graduation to Primary School in Kachindamoto

96 children graduated from the CBCC in Kachindamoto in 2016. The Primary Education Advisor, the Head Chief, and three head teachers of the nearest schools attended the ceremony.



“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” — *C.S. Lewis*

where education is not always valued, yet is the key out of poverty -- this was an important day!

School Fees for Orphans

In 2016 we provided school fees for over 60 orphaned children in Malawi. Some were selected to attend private secondary boarding schools, some to community secondary schools and a few are studying at a trade school or university. Students have their own stories of overcoming immense hardship.

Philip Mwenegamba, SAFE's National Education Coordinator, does the assessments to determine the most needy orphans. This demands a lot of walking in remote places, but Philip shares that the long walks are worth it. “Giving these orphans a chance to have an education will give them a way out of dire poverty.”

Rose Kennedy, a young girl from Kachindamoto, is our newest needy orphan who is receiving school fees from SAFE. Rose's ambition is to become a primary teacher in her home area so that she can help promote “girl child” education.



SAFE Life Youth Clubs

Cathy Cheonga, Regional Education Coordinator, directs the 11 active SAFE Life Youth Clubs in our sponsored villages. Cathy challenges the youth by telling them, “It is possible to walk in holiness despite where you are, and that you are a light to your communities!”

Over 480 youth (10-18 years old) are involved. 40 are in leadership, and collaborated to publish a manual for the clubs.

Typical activities include

- Help needy gogos by building latrines and energy efficient stoves
- Study the Bible
- Evangelism
- Sports
- Life skills lessons



- Grow vegetables to generate income
- Outreaches to educate on child abuse, peer pressure and drug and alcohol abuse

Ideas For Generating Income

SAFE Life Youth Clubs were taught to make briquettes to help replace firewood and charcoal for cooking. The briquettes are made of used paper, soaked in water overnight, then pounded until soft. After being drained, they are molded into balls and dried in the sun for three to five days. Then they are ready to be used for cooking!! The youth hope to make the briquettes on a large scale to sell.

Yamikani is one of the beneficiaries from our tailoring lessons. He made many colorful aprons that he sold. But, instead of using all the money for himself, he took part of it to pay off water bills for Kondanani village. He is “Walking the Word!”



SAFE's First Youth Camp

In December, a day camp was held for 40 youth. They came for three days to the recently built SAFE Training Center in Kondanani Village. They had Bible study and

group discussions, played sports, and even learned to make paper mache/cardboard chairs for small children. The highlight was seeing these standing students who received Christ as their own personal Savior.



Saving Lives

Our staff often finds child-headed households needing food and assistance.

One family of orphans is Chikondi, Gloria, and on the far right, Ruth Makoma. Their parents died 5 years ago, and Ruth has been attending Kondanani SAFE Life Youth Club. The man in the orange cap is their uncle, but he has disappeared, leaving them on their own. Our staff is providing them with food to keep them from starvation.



Jesus Film

Lameck, is SAFE's Jesus Film Coordinator. *The Jesus Film* and follow-up, *Walking with Jesus* films, are faithfully being shown in our villages and schools. Many people are turning to Christ! In one village area, 12 Muslim families are now going to Christian village churches. Lameck has brought the local village pastors together to form a support group to encourage these new followers of Jesus.

Why Wait? Life Skills

Why Wait? is our Bible-based life skills curriculum. It is the required Life Skills orientation course for the University of Malawi. Many teachers have said, that during their youth they did not have this guidance, and that it now helps them, their families and their students. We train teachers to teach the Why Wait? curriculum in primary and secondary schools, both private and public. Teachers say the lessons are really changing students' behavior and this is happening in many schools all over Malawi.



In 2016, 90 teachers in 44 schools were trained in Why Wait?

At one of the trainings for schools near our Thowolo SAFE community, the *Bare Facts* DVD by Josh McDowell helped a lot, and most of the puzzling questions on sex and sexuality were brilliantly answered by using the truth of God's Word.

Mail Box Clubs

Mailbox is an afterschool discipleship program that supplements what Why Wait? is doing for students in



schools. Teachers from 8 schools in Zomba were trained in January last year and others have been trained throughout the year. This is another tool God uses to penetrate the darkness and shine His love and truth into hearts!

SAFE Haven

SAFE Haven, the container we transformed into a building, shipped to Malawi, and placed in a peri-



urban area in Zomba, now has a full-time staff person -- Aaron Gondwe. He reported that almost 100 children and youth (aged 6-15) have registered

to participate. Parents are supportive. Activities include daily devotions, sports like netball and soccer, health talks, environmental talks, reading time, and a day for general cleaning. In order to better meet the children's needs.



Isaiah 58:10 says, “If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness.”