



Return to Kenya

SAGE volunteers returned to the Masai Girls' Rescue Center in Kajiado, Kenya, for the third time this past September 2022 and built a home for the school's dean.

There are now 22 new buildings on the campus, three of them built by SAGE.

Soon the kitchen/dining hall will be torn down and replaced by a beautiful new, state-of-the-art building, the campus will be landscaped, and this school will be able to serve its mission more fully.

Larry Moody was the building superintendent, with a crew of nine, until two of them came down with a mild case of Covid and had to quarantine for five days. That meant the remaining members had to work harder, but they were able to finish the dean's home in time.

The medical team, headed up by Dr. Bill and Sharon Barretto, included four American nurses, one nurse practitioner, two national doctors and two other national medical personnel. They treated over 1,100 patients, as they went out to different villages each day.

Carol Hargreaves and her four helpers told over 200 enthusiastic, wiggly children that Jesus loves them, as they held two Vacation Bible Schools a day for six days. And Pastor Phil Vecchiarelli held daily evangelistic meetings, which resulted in 84 baptisms on the last Sabbath.



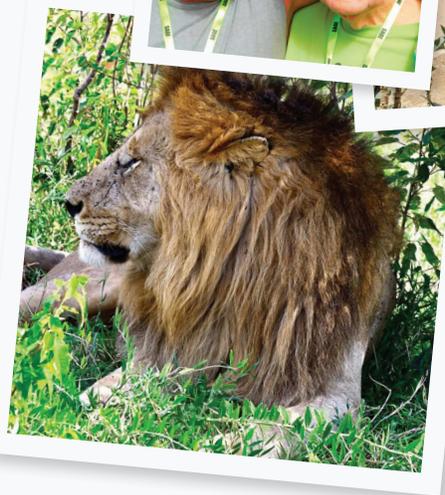
At the nearby prison, a national chaplain had prepared another 33 men and women for baptism, and SAGE members attended the baptisms there.

Maranatha had built an open-air chapel (poles and roof) in the men's prison, where the chaplain had been holding meetings, and the women said they wished they could have a similar chapel on their side of the prison.

Back at the school, the girls who come to this center have run away from home to escape genital mutilation and child marriages. They miss their mothers, especially, so volunteers who come to work there are like mother or father figures for them.

One evening as the group was eating dinner at Tumaini Gardens, where they were staying, the male servers came in singing and dancing, bearing a delicious-looking cake. As the rhythmic song continued, the leader came to where SAGE president Bob Grady was sitting and pulled him to his feet to join the dance, before presenting him with the cake in honor of his upcoming retirement!

Of course, no trip to Africa is complete without a safari to see all the exotic animals and birds created by God on this continent. Riding an ostrich (if you were under a certain weight), feeding a giraffe, and cuddling a python were part of the fun enjoyed by team members before bidding farewell to this center that holds such a special place in their hearts.
— *Carrol Grady*



SAGE Numbers

through the years

1,500
Volunteers

25
Mission Trips

2,000
Baptisms

*Thank you for your
years of service!*



Time to Retire

All good things must come to an end, so decided Pastor Bob Grady, upon reaching his 90th birthday on November 15, and deciding to step down from SAGE leadership.

Current SAGE officers, as well as previous ones who remain in the land of the living, were invited to a final SAGE committee at the conference office. Conference president Doug Bing offered to provide a meal and include the office staff.

When Bob arrived early to display some SAGE mementos, he discovered the auditorium beautifully decorated for a retirement party, as well as a SAGE get-together. Picture boards from previous camp meeting booths, SAGE mission trip t-shirts and jackets, *SAGE Advice* newsletters from the past 28 years, enough SAGE caps for everybody to take one, and tables decorated with SAGE bowls made the room festive.

Bob began by telling a little about the history of how SAGE got started, followed by highlights from SAGE's 14 years of conventions at Hope, BC; 25 mission trips to countries all over the world during which schools and churches were built, medical clinics conducted, and Vacation Bible Schools and evangelistic meetings held, resulting in approximately 2,000 baptisms; dozens of projects to help build or paint conference churches and schools, and especially the many special projects at Sunset Lake Camp; and many, varied social events every year to facilitate fellowship and friendship among seniors. The reminiscing concluded with a Powerpoint presentation showing events of the most recent mission trip to Kajiado.

A responsive reading, thanking the Lord for the opportunities for seniors to get out of their rocking chairs and be a blessing to humanity, preceded the blessing for our meal.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious enchiladas, rice, and salad provided by one of the Spanish churches, then filled the last space in their tummies with pieces from the two cakes – one celebrating Bob's 90th birthday, and one displaying the SAGE owl and celebrating SAGE.

After dinner, the SAGE committee met and voted to pay for Maranatha to build a one-day church in the Kajiado women's prison, and designate the remaining \$125,000 for charitable intent if a new president for SAGE is not found by the end of 2023.

Conference president Doug Bing is actively looking for someone to take Bob's place. If you have a name to suggest, please contact him.



What a Team!

A tribute to SAGE leaders from Bob Grady

Often little is said about those behind the scenes whose tireless work makes an organization successful. Often the president gets all the credit.

SAGE is a service organization to serve the needs of active seniors who love the Lord and want to do something special for God in their senior years.

Once a month through the past 28 years the SAGE officers have met at the Washington Conference office to lay plans, pray together and then each has had a part in making those plans work. They have done this with enthusiasm and as a result thousands have been blessed.

Together we have accomplished what many have thought was an impossible for seniors to do for the Lord.

As I retire at the grand old age of 90, I look back on the SAGE committee and marvel at the talents that each has used to bless the SAGE ministry.

Many of these individuals have had successful careers in their line of work. They have taken their talents in retirement and used them in a selfless way to add strength to this unique and sacred program.

The secretaries that have been assigned to work with this ministry in the Conference office have, with grace and efficiency, taken the many calls from SAGE members and have kept the program running smoothly.

As the outgoing SAGE president, I want to give tribute to those who deserve both your and my thanks for a job well done.

I also want to thank the thousands of you who have participated in SAGE. We have together accomplished amazing projects and have had a tremendous amount of enjoyment in doing it. May our great Lord continue to bless you as the years go by.

Let's have a big reunion in that wonderful kingdom the Lord is preparing for each one of us some glorious day.

A big vote of appreciation is deserved by all the SAGE officers who have served in many capacities over the years.

Presidents

Winston & Jeanne DeHaven 1994-1996
Bob Grady 1996-2022

Vice-Presidents

Keith Boyd 1994-1996
Dr. Margaret Tan 1994-2004
Dr. Stephen Tan 1994-1995
Will & Esther Garner 1994-1995
Lewis & Eugenia Shipowick 1994-1996
Duane & Norma Anderson 1994-1995
Carrol Grady 1994-2022
Stan & Emma Sargeant 1995-2010
Alice Adams 1995-1999
Dale & Alice (Adams) Hoekstra 1999-2006
Martin & Grayce Ladd 1996-1999
Paul & Lois Turpel 1996-1998
Lowell & Esther Blankenship 1997-2010

Fritz & Virginia Fuchs 1997-2006
Louise Weller 1997-2022
John Zollbrecht 1999-2000
Al & Jan Griffone 2004-2009
Al Griffone 2009-2011
Al & Lois Griffone 2011-2022
John and Joye Thorn 2012-2017
Scott & Kathy Campbell 2006-2011
Fred & Mary Lou Haskell 2009-2015
Virginia Gonthier 2009-2019
Grady Stephens 2014-2018
Esther Finerty 2017-2022
David Gomes 2017-2022
Richard & Bella Hudak 2017-2022
Randy & Irene Street 2018-2020
Larry Moody 2019-2022

SAGE Advice Editors

Carrol Grady 1994-2009
Heidi Baumgartner 2010-2022

Secretaries

Alyce Boggess 1996-1997
Rita Gruesbeck 1998-1999
Joan Libby 1999-2014
Candace Faletogo 2014-2016
Carol Craig 2016-2017, 2020-2022
Kirsten Russell 2017-2018
Angela Pierce 2018-2019
Meriah Siahaan 2019

Conference Liaisons

Dave & Gaylene Wolkwitz
Dennis Carlson
Tim Peterson



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Are you the next SAGE leadership team?
Please email doug.bing@wc.npc.org with your interest!