



ORBUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

June 2015 Newsletter



Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. is a Christian volunteer charity which exists to demonstrate the love of God through word and deed to the weak and vulnerable. The Orbus Centre in Ngumbe, Blantyre, Malawi is a joint project between Orbus Australia, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (Australia) and the CCAP Blantyre Synod. We invite you to visit the Orbus Australia website at www.OrbusMinistries.org, to view the [Orbus Photo Albums](#) and to visit the Orbus Centre in Malawi.

News Update- June 2015:

Bibles for Prisoners: Orbus Ministries Australia are pleased to announce a new project, distributing Chichewa language Bibles directly to prisoners in Malawi. This new initiative is in partnership with friends in Blantyre, including the CCAP Blantyre Synod Prisons Chaplain, Rev. Stanley Chimesya and Douglas Taylor.

Stanley has been involved in prison ministry for many years and has a heart for the plight of prisoners. Douglas' father was a missionary in Malawi who loved the Bible, loved Chichewa and was deeply moved by God's work among prisoners in his day. My wife and I became good friends with Stanley and the Taylors after meeting them in Blantyre in 2011.

According to Douglas, "the Bibles are treasured, read, studied and looked after in the prisons. I understand that each of the large cells in Chichiri Prison has a twice daily devotions (morning and evening) and each cell has a Bible. Each cell has a committee so everything is well organised. Every time I ask about these devotions I hear that everyone listens quietly. Bibles are one piece of literature that are valued here and in prisons people have the time and inclination to read."

The prison ministry is also a good opportunity to get expats involved as all tend to be quite taken by what God is doing in those prisons. It's an eye opener and if expats come along as guests then they can usually bring a bit of money to cover fuel and gifts (soap etc.) for the prisoners."

Anyone wanting to contribute funds toward buying Chichewa Bibles for direct distribution in Malawi can now do so by sending the funds to Orbus Ministries Australia Inc., who will then forward the funds, with no administration costs, on a regular basis to Malawi.

Orbus Kindergarten and Primary School, Ngumbe, Malawi: The Steendam's (from Eltham Presbyterian Church) arrived safely from Australia in late April and report that the kindy and school "are going very well and there are now over 300 students. School hours have been extended to now finish at 2pm instead of 12 o'clock. Every morning they have devotions and again at the finish of the day. In addition all students do a subject called "Bible Knowledge" as part of their curriculum."



New Grade 6 Class to start on 7th September 2015: A new teacher is to be employed and the new Grade 6 class is due to commence with the start of the new school year on the 7th September.

Having started with the opening of a kindergarten class in September 2010, then with the start of the primary school in September 2011, we are overjoyed that we have been able to grow gradually each year to now almost have a full private primary school. With God's help it is hoped that this growth will continue.

Future Plans: With this milestone almost achieved we are now encouraged to pray and plan as we look forward to the next stage of the project: starting the private secondary school.

In Malawi, primary school finishes in Standard (grade) 6 for most private schools and Standard 8 for public schools. Many children stop going to school in Malawi at the end of primary school, as secondary education is costly. Many of the OVC who graduate from primary school will be unable to afford to pay full (or any) private secondary school fees, so local donors, other international donors, and/or Orbus Australia will need to be prepared to fill the gaps on an ongoing basis.

Offering secondary education to our primary graduates is a big step, but this is where we will be able to make a continuing and significant further contribution to this community, as there seems to be a great need for secondary education in Ngumbe generally, and specifically for the orphans and poorer children who will otherwise not go to high school at all.

In addition to providing scholarship funding for each OVC who cannot afford the fees, funds will be needed to build more classrooms, employ more teachers and staff (until fees are adequate), and buy more educational resources. So, prayer is requested and if anyone has any interest in becoming involved in starting the Orbus Christian High School please contact me at craig.manners@orbusministries.org.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

Proverbs 16:3

New Classroom Building: Construction of the new classroom building started in April 2015, under the guidance of our farm manager Lameck as project manager, ably assisted by John, and with funding provided by Orbus Ministries Australia.

John reports that the construction is going well, with completion due by mid-August, and that, "A special mention should be made regarding Lameck Chitela who has been tireless in both directing/supervising all the construction activities and workmen, has ensured that all building material was purchased at lowest cost yet at the right quality together with continuing to manage all the Orbus farm activities. He spends 6 days a week from early morning to dark at Orbus to control and oversight the building construction and livestock, and after church on Sundays comes again to Orbus to ensure that all is in order on the site. He really has a heart for the wellbeing and vision of Orbus!"

The opening and dedication of the new building is scheduled for late September, with dignitaries from the government education department, CCAP Blantyre Synod, traditional authority, community chiefs, parents, teachers and children expected to be in attendance. Some photos below show the progress:



News Briefs: Fifty new desks have been made, general maintenance carried out on other buildings, the vitamin and minerals enriched porridge continues to be fed to the children every school day and the police families have settled in well. The new rocket stove for cooking the porridge has reduced the amount of firewood required. Sue has been a joy and blessing to the women once again, and reports, "Monday afternoon Bible study at Orbus and Friday afternoon craft/line dancing, are going really well with nearly 40 ladies coming now." We also rejoice with teacher Nisha at the birth of her new baby and give thanks for the wonderful teachers, staff and volunteers.



"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Orbus Farm Update: John reports on the farm as follows: "The irrigation system is now back in operation, with up to 4 sprinklers able to be used simultaneously which will hopefully enable the growing of second maize and vegetable crops in the dry season."

"The construction of three further chicken sheds in parallel with the existing ones has commenced. These sheds will increase the chicken capacity to 1300 - 1500 broilers and means that up to 250 grown chickens are available for sale each week. We anticipate that the increased income will assist in the self-sustainability."

"In line with the increase in chickens, it is proposed to produce our own feed for these broiler chickens. The main (60%) of the ingredients is maize which is grown in the farm. The other ingredients of the feed formula are locally available and it is expected that this will reduce the expense of purchasing prepared feeding formulas by about 40% and hence improve our profit margins."

Some recent photos show the blue gum plantation, planted in 2011 is growing well, as are the fruit trees, planted in 2010/11.



Quotes about Orbus: "One glance at (the) Orbus property ...tells you immediately that this is a visionary, well cared for and purposeful project. It is, in fact, an APWM approved mission work of the highest order. ... It is a sweet haven of protection and Christian love for the most vulnerable people on earth. It ministers the love of Christ for them. It deserves our ongoing commitment." (Rev. John Wilson, Assembly Clerk, PCV, 2012)

"This is an outstanding project. The landscape is restful and refreshing, the buildings are solid and fully functional and a credit to designer and builder and funder. The surrounding farm with its goats and pigs, banana and mango trees, tomatoes and maize are simply amazing. Orbus is a haven of peace ... a house of mercy for children of Africa with no parents to love or care for them." (PCV STAMP Team, June 2012)

"This is an amazing testimony to the mercy of God and we are SO thankful for his answers to our prayers and his providential guidance of this mission...This is truly the work of the Lord, and it is AMAZING...Please pray. Come over and visit - Blantyre is easy to get to and it's the warm heart of Africa. It's just a little flight out of Jo'burg, not costing very much at all." (Rev. John Wilson, 2015)

Would you like to visit the Orbus Centre? Anyone wanting to visit the Orbus Centre, either just as a visitor or as a volunteer for a short period, is welcome to do so. All Australian volunteers must have a valid "Working with Children" card and can arrange for a visit by contacting craig.manners@orbusministries.org

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go." Joshua 1:7

General News:

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, the Right-Reverend David Brown and Mrs Roslyn Brown visited the Orbus Centre in Malawi in January 2015, and at a gathering in Melbourne in April 2015 gave a very encouraging report on the progress of the Orbus School. It was reported that in recent academic testing the Orbus School has scored very highly compared to other schools in the area, and that in recognizing the high standard of education at Orbus some fee paying families in the area have asked about enrolling their children at Orbus. The Browns spoke very highly of not only the high professional standards of the Orbus teachers but also of the love and compassion they demonstrated toward the children.

Orbus House, Australia:

Orbus House, in the south-eastern area of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia: Is a short-term residential program home for young women facing crisis pregnancy situations, where they can be cared for and supported. It started in December 2013 and is a partnership between *Orbus Ministries Australia Inc.* and *The Babes Project*, providing an alternative choice for women, with the practical support they need to be able to have, love and keep their babies, or if need be to help find loving homes for the babies if they cannot care for them.



Baby Eden and mother.

So far we have had two "Orbus House" babies, Daniel and Eden. Eden's mum was booked in for an abortion by her parents when they found out about her unexpected pregnancy and she fled from her situation and was referred to us at Orbus House. She has been very grateful and very surprised by how comfortable the house is and the love shown to her.

Orbus Finances:

Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. help provide funds required to assist the Orbus School in Malawi to continue to educate over 300 underprivileged children; feed them a nutritious meal five-days-a-week; fund the employment of 14 local teachers and staff (thereby supporting 14 local families in the poorest country in the world); generally provide an economic boost through the local economy; and most importantly, help to make sure these children and their families hear about Jesus.

Orbus in Australia are also renting the house for the Orbus House project.

All this is done with practically no administration fees at the Australian end (only bank transfer fees). No wages are paid in Australia and no expenses are paid for Australian volunteers. We believe it is a remarkably good use of funds and invite you to join us in this exciting ministry. As has been the case for five years now, at the end of the 2014/15 year Orbus Australia still has in the bank just enough funds for approx. another 12 months operation. Praise God!

Donations can be made:

By cheque:

South Yarra Presbyterian Church-Orbus Contra A/C
PO Box 9007
South Yarra
Victoria 3141
AUSTRALIA

By Electronic Funds Transfer:

Bank: Bank of Melbourne
A/C Name: Orbus Ministries Australia Inc.
BSB: 333 038
Account No: 553 913 774

Prayer Requests:

"You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed".
"Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan." John Bunyan

- Please pray for Malawi, especially the millions of children who suffer through the extreme poverty and struggles.
- For each of the children attending the Orbus Centre to put their trust in Jesus.
- For the provision of the children's material needs.
- Give thanks for the Orbus teachers, staff and volunteers in Malawi.
- The nearing completion of the new classroom building.
- The building project management by Lameck, who has done such a wonderful job.
- The local builders and workers who have worked on the building.
- Pray for the new teacher and for a smooth start to the new Grade 6 class on 7th September 2015.
- Give thanks for the visit by John and Sue and for all their ministry at Orbus.
- Please pray for wisdom and guidance as discussions commence about starting a high school in 2016.
- Pray for the "Bibles for Prisoners" project, that many prisoners will be greatly blessed.
- Pray for "Orbus House" babies Daniel and Eden and their mothers.

"It shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24).



*In Jesus,
Craig Manners*



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