



ORBUS AUSTRALIA  
NEWSLETTER  
MAY TO AUGUST 2013



*"A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones." Proverbs 15:30*

Orbus Australia is a Christian not-for-profit volunteer ministry which exists to demonstrate the love of God through word and deed to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The Orbus Centre in Ngumbe, Malawi was developed by Orbus Australia and opened in July in 2010. The Centre started a small farming project and a Kindergarten in 2010 and a Junior Primary School in 2011. The Centre operates as a joint project between the CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian) – Blantyre Synod and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (Australia). We invite you to visit the Orbus Australia website at [www.orbusafrica.org](http://www.orbusafrica.org), to view the [Orbus Photo Albums](#) and to visit the Orbus Centre in Malawi.

**Orbus Australia Update:**

**Orbus Short-Term Malawi Mission Trip, June 2014:** It is proposed that OA co-ordinate a short-term mission team to volunteer at the Orbus Centre for the month of June 2014 (final dates to be confirmed). Generally the plan is that the women could spend time with the staff and children at the kindy and school, while the men could assist in the farm, the school grounds, and dependent on funds available, help local builders and labourers construct: 1- A new classroom building; 2- A large toilet block; 3- Two houses for a police station and police accommodation. Anyone interested in joining the team is invited to contact OA as follows: [craig.manners@orbusafrica.org](mailto:craig.manners@orbusafrica.org).

**The Orbus Kindergarten and Junior Primary School, Ngumbe, Malawi:** The Centre operates a Kindergarten and the Orbus Junior Primary School which currently operates up to and including grade three. Preparations are underway to begin grade four at the beginning of Term 1 in September 2013, one new teacher will be added at this time. It is hoped that a full primary school will be operating within two years. The children at Orbus receive a daily meal of a vitamin and minerals enriched porridge. It is with great sadness we report a female student died after being hit by a speeding car on the M1 near the Centre while walking home from school on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. The BSHDC provided transport for the funeral and some funds for the family. Prayer is requested for the safety of the children walking along this road.

*“Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never allow the righteous to be shaken. Ps. 55:22*



**The Orbus Farm:** During the period there was some income from sales of goats, pigs and chickens but no specific figures have been received. Unfortunately there were two incidents of theft at the Centre during the period with reports of thefts of pigs and goats from the farm, as well as of electrical and plumbing fittings from the school. The pump installed last year has been removed by staff for fear of it being stolen and it is being kept at the local police station. Police investigated the incidents. As a result of the security concerns, the headmaster and one other teacher who were living on-site have sought accommodation elsewhere. OA have suggested that new accommodation be built on-site for two policemen and their families, to establish a police station at the entrance to the Orbus Centre to act as a deterrent. The local police have agreed to this on the condition that electricity be provided for them at the accommodation. OA are hoping that this accommodation with some solar electricity may be achievable by mid-late 2014, along with some alarms and solar security lighting.



*“Those who work their land will have abundant food..” Proverbs 12:11*



**The Orbus Centre Budget 2013/2014:**

Orbus Australia's finances: Until the Centre is self-sufficient or alternative funding is arranged, at a minimum OA is committed to providing funding to cover teachers and staff wages and the cost of providing the porridge every weekday morning for the children. This is met by donations made to OA. As usual God provides for all our needs and for this we give thanks. The budget set for OA's contribution to the

Centre for the 2013/2014 year is approx. A\$18,000, which is approximately the current OA bank account balance. This includes wages for the headmaster, three teachers, the farm manager, three farm workers and four security guards, porridge and firewood for a year, plus some farm input costs, teachers and students school books, new desks for grade four, and an administration fee for the BSHDC. We take this opportunity to thank our donors for their contributions, which apart from educating approx. 300 enrolled students and providing them with a nutritional meal, also provides employment for 12 locals thereby supporting 12 local families and the community in general.



*"How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get understanding rather than silver!" Proverbs 16:16*

**Short-Term Mission Trip Completed in July 2013:** In July 2013 two volunteers from Australia visited the Orbus Centre. Sherif Mehanni and Tia Wishart, from two different congregations in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria dedicated themselves to serve the community at the Centre where they were able to make a very positive impact in many and varied ways. A brief summary follows:

- Sherif and Tia conducted general health checks for the Orbus children, taking the sicker ones to see a doctor and buying medicines for them;
- Supervised the "Happy Classrooms" makeover of the new Grades 2 and 3 classroom walls with educational material and Bible verses painted on all classroom walls;
- Bought the building materials for and assisted the beginning of the building of a new home for a local grandmother in Mulenga B village who cares for her four orphaned grandchildren;
- Visited some of the needier Orbus orphans with gifts of groceries;
- Purchased five steel security door protectors to enhance security of the Martyn-Lloyd Jones Building as well as new locks for this and other buildings, including the pigs and chicken enclosures;
- Assisted with some general site works and property upkeep.
- Spent time with the children;
- Conducted a road traffic safety demonstration for the children;
- Played sports activities with the children;
- Bought a new push-bike as a gift for every member of staff;

Summary of the health checks:

Of the approx. 200 children assessed Sherif and Tia were able to assist a number of children, with their guardian, with visits to a doctor at a private clinic, where the doctor very generously waived the consultancy fee for about 30 children. There were a couple of cases of early pneumonia for which anti-biotics were prescribed, and Orbus paid for medicines for those needing them.

"Some are quite healthy (excluding their feet) as most do not have shoes, however, this seems to be normal and not affecting their health too much. Some on the other hand were quite ill and needed medical attention quite soon. Some of the medical conditions we have seen are: Ringworm, Intestinal worms, Common colds, Pneumonia, Severe fungus infections." One girl with a growth on her eyes was cared for, and a girl with swallowing difficulties was also assisted. This particular girl is special to Orbus:

She arrived at Orbus in 2011 aged almost 5, on her mother's back, having never walked in her life due to damage done to her brain and body caused by cerebral malaria contracted as a baby. Her mother had tried to enrol in a few pre-schools but they had all turned her down. But thanks be to God Orbus was able to help her, so when her mother asked if she could enrol her child we immediately said "Yes, of course," and the kindy teachers took her straight into the class to start that day. The teachers and other children were very loving and paid her lots of attention. They helped her move around, and in a couple of weeks the children were holding her by the hands and helping her to stand. Then they started to lead her and she started to take some steps with assistance. Then after a couple more weeks she took some small steps completely unaided. One day when her mother came to pick her up the staff had the girl stand at one end of the verandah and had her walk about 10 metres unaided into her mother's waiting arms. Needless to say the mother had many tears of joy, as did most onlookers. She has provided much joy for all at Orbus ever since, as she walked around the site unaided, albeit slowly and with some difficulty. Sherif reports that she is still taking her little steps and he is trying to arrange some more physiotherapy for her.

Sherif and Tia also took some nice [photos](#), featured in this newsletter, and generally were a real blessing to the Orbus community.



*"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;" John 11:25*



*"He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress..." Proverbs 14:26*  
*"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life..." Proverbs 14:27*



**Photos and Items of Interest:**

Past newsletters for Orbus are available online at [www.OrbusAfrica.org](http://www.OrbusAfrica.org). Please feel free to distribute Orbus newsletters.

For a selection of past photos of the Orbus ministry in Malawi, and for a selection of photos from Sherif and Tia's visit: [Orbus Web Albums](#).



Please view an interesting [short video clip on poverty](#) from [PovertyCure.org](http://PovertyCure.org) of which Orbus Australia is a network member.

One area of major concern for Malawi is youth unemployment, which as mentioned in a recent Guardian newspaper [article](#), is leading to alcohol and drug abuse which in turn is leading to increased crime.

To learn more about our partners in Malawi please visit: [www.blantyresynod.org/](http://www.blantyresynod.org/) and [www.bshdc.org](http://www.bshdc.org). If you would like to keep up to date with news in Malawi visit the local news sites: [www.mwnation.com/](http://www.mwnation.com/) and [www.nyasatimes.com/](http://www.nyasatimes.com/).

**Prayer Requests:**

- For God's gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ for each of the children attending the Orbus Centre.
- For the salvation of souls in the wider area - Ngumbe, Kameza, Lunzu, Nansengwe, Malunga, Mulenga and Daniel Villages.
- For the neediest of the children in the area to come to the Centre.
- For the children who are HIV+.
- For the street children in Blantyre and Ndirande.
- For the expansion of the Orbus Junior Primary School.
- For the safety of the children, especially those walking home along the M1.
- For the protection of the Orbus Centre.
- For God to provide a long-term Orbus Australia representative to be based in Blantyre to assist the Synod at the Orbus Centre and to conduct general orphan care ministry in Malawi.
- For more local and foreign volunteers to come to the Orbus Centre.
- For Orbus staff and volunteers: Wills, Esther, Grace, Zulu, Esme, Triffania, Faris, Lamech, Felix, Leonard, James, John.
- Give thanks for the contribution of all past local staff and volunteers and for God to richly bless them and their families; specifically for Ellen, Flossy, Rhoda, Blessings, Davey, Benson, Mjojo and John.
- For Synod and BSHDC leadership: Alex, Mercy, Cliff, Andrew and Lonnie.
- Give thanks for Debbie Eve and her much appreciated local help to Orbus generally.
- Thank God for Malawi's continued peaceful political and economic turnaround.
- Pray for President Joyce Banda and her Cabinet. Pray that President Banda will remain faithful to her publicly declared trust in Jesus and fear of God and rule this country with godly wisdom. That she will protect the weak, the poor and vulnerable in her society, especially the many hundreds of thousands of orphaned children. That she will restrain corruption and the devastating impact this has on the weak, poor and vulnerable.

In Jesus Name,  
*Craig Manners*



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*"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty." Prov.11:24*