



ORBUS AUSTRALIA  
NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2012



FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD (ROMANS 3: 23)



BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US ROMAN 5:8



Pen is blue Cholembera ndi cha blue  
The cup is yellow Kapu ndiya chikasu  
Tomatoes are red Matimati ndi wofiira

FOR THE WAGES OF THE SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD (ROMAN 6: 23)

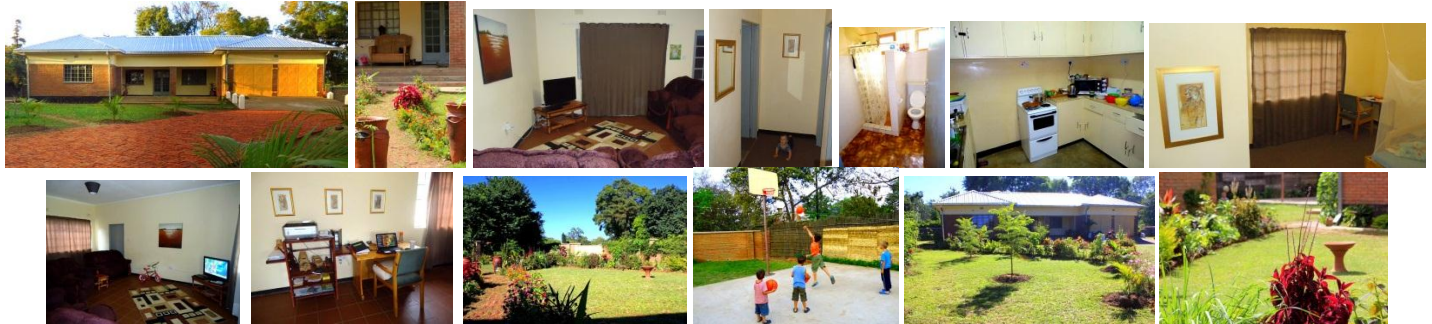
*"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son (Jesus Christ) that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

### Orbus Australia Update:

**Long-Term Volunteer sought:** As mentioned in the [August 2012 newsletter](#) my family and I have returned to Australia leaving the Orbus Centre in the capable hands of the CCAP Blantyre Synod. As also mentioned Orbus Australia (OA) have a five bedroom, fully furnished [house](#) on the Synod's Mission Grounds in Blantyre. Orbus Australia are seeking a long-term Australian representative to be based at the house and to conduct a general orphan care ministry in Malawi on behalf of OA. This self-funded mission role may suit a retired minister or a missionary seeking a new ministry, or a Christian sensing a call to minister to orphans, vulnerable children and the poor generally in this very needy country. Orbus Australia will provide the accommodation and use of a vehicle to a suitable candidate. Alternatively it may be that a roster of interested Christians be established to stay at the house for short-term periods, i.e. for people's long-service leave. If you are interested please contact me at [craig.manners@orbusafrica.org](mailto:craig.manners@orbusafrica.org). **Short-Term Mission Trips to Malawi:** If you are interested in joining a short-term mission trip to Malawi it is hoped that such a team may be in Malawi in May, June or July 2013.



The Orbus house before.



After: The Orbus House is fully furnished, secure and comfortable.

*"Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble. The LORD will protect him and preserve his life;... The LORD will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness." (Psalm 41:1-3)*

"Remember that this is a promise to the man who considers the poor. Are you one of these? See how in the hour of sickness the God of the poor will bless the man who cares for the poor! The everlasting arms shall stay up his soul as friendly hands and downy pillows stay up the body of the sick. How tender and sympathizing is this image; how near it brings our God to our infirmities and sicknesses! Whoever heard this of the old heathen Jove, or of the gods of India or China! This is language peculiar to the God of Israel; He it is who deigns to become nurse and attendant upon good men. If He smites with one hand, He sustains with the other. Oh, it is blessed fainting when one falls upon the Lord's own bosom and is born thereon; Grace is the best of restoratives; divine love is the safest stimulant for the languishing patient; it makes the soul strong as a giant, even when the bones are breaking through the skin. No physician like the Lord, no tonic like His promise, no wine like His love. If the reader has failed in his duty to the poor, let him see what he is losing and at once become their friend and helper." *Charles Spurgeon*. (The building at the Orbus Centre housing the dining room, kindy and Grade 1 classes has been named the *Charles Spurgeon Building* in honour of this godly man who had a heart for orphans and the poor).

### Orbus School and Farm General Update - September to December 2012:

The new school year started well on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and saw the successful beginning of the Grade 2 and Grade 3 class in the [new classroom building](#). The new teachers (Photos below) have settled in well. There are now 279 children in total enrolled in the Orbus School.



The new classroom building; Staff from Mr. Price who donated the paint and labour to paint the new building; The new desks.



Mr Wills Mbewe (Head)



Mrs Esther Msiskawith (Grade 2 teacher)



Mrs Grace Mabedi (Grade 1 teacher)

In her remarks during the official opening of the new classes at the Orbus Junior Primary School on September 4<sup>th</sup> (2012) Deputy District Education Manager Mrs. Getrude Ulaya (from the Malawian government education ministry) could not hide her excitement with the new Orbus school saying it has helped reduce the distance the children used to travel to other surrounding schools.

"Orbus Junior Primary School will help learners do better in school. Most of the times learners are absent due to fatigue after walking long distances which leads to poor performance and increased dropout rate at early stage. You have shortened the distance to be covered by pupils which is in line with government's policy to provide education to pupils within a recommended catchment area. This new school has indeed complemented government efforts to promote education in Malawi.

She further appreciated the agricultural components at the Centre saying it will help pupils in their practical experience. "I have heard in your speech that you have a vision of developing this Centre to a full primary school, have a secondary and college right here. I should then commend you for the agricultural component you have because as the pupils go to Standard 5 and above, they learn a lot of science subjects like agriculture which include crop and animal husbandry which are practiced here. This is great!" said a joyful Ulaya, who also was pleased to note that the Orbus Centre's principles are Bible based. "I am delighted that you emphasize on biblical principles because in so doing these children will not only improve academically but also spiritually because we know the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

**Orbus Australia has received the following update on the Orbus Centre from the BSHDC:**

**The Orbus School:** The new school year started well on 4<sup>th</sup> September which saw the start of the two new primary school classes, Standards 2 and 3. The school had the following enrolments:

CLASS	ENROLMENT		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Nursery	52	61	113
Standard 1	50	39	89
Standard 2	22	25	47
Standard 3	14	16	30
Grand total			279

The Parent and Teacher's Committee was formed and has mobilised the community and are now being proactive in initiatives such as digging pit latrines, as the numbers of children are higher than the current number of toilets can accommodate.



The teachers are doing well but the head teacher requests one more teacher so that he has more time for school administration. He can take some subjects in the different classes instead. The education department is still working on collecting all the school books. These text books are not easy to find as they are not being printed in Malawi. So far we have a reasonable supply of English, Chichewa and Mathematics books. Each teacher now has a curriculum to use in their teaching.

Additionally we can report that the opening of the new classes was marked by a celebration and was very well represented and included the first assistant to the government minister for education who was guest of honor. Other dignitaries were Mr. Machinjiri who is the Traditional Authority in charge of 113 local community chiefs, the DGS, Director of BSHDC, 3 members of the government district education department, Lester and Moses from the Synod education. Prison Chaplain, other representatives from BSHDC. In total over 200 people including parents/guardians.

**Personnel:** We employed 2 new guards and an office assistant/cleaner. Lameck underwent assessment and was confirmed in employment as is the requirement in the conditions of service of BSHDC. The office assistant is of great help to the nursery class, she helps out when she is free and is teaching the children English.

**The Orbus Farm:** All four female pigs have piglets. There are 21 pigs altogether as at December. Plans are under way to fix the other pig pens to make room for the older piglets to allow the mother to mate again in a month's time. Goats there are 48 goats. All He-goats were sold as they were old and one new Boer goat has been brought in. Old goats will be sold this month. We were waiting for the Christmas season so that they fetch better prices.

**Chickens:** The first lot were sold and 200 were bought and we were given 2 extra. Eight died and so there are 194 remaining. We are looking to see if we can get new chicks in preparation for Christmas sales.

The irrigation system has not been working well. There was theft of parts of the pump. Charles came to see it and said he would bring quotes for replacing the stolen items but still has not come. We therefore have sent the Synod plumber to look into the issue. Currently, cultivation of the land is in progress in readiness of the rainy season, which is yet to start. As of now crops are irrigated with water from the bore hole.



### Volunteer Visitors:

Orbus are very grateful for the visit by Michael and Dorothy Cook from Horsham in Victoria and for their contribution to this project in September 2012. Dorothy (a teacher) spent time with the children, teaching them and loving them, and Michael (a plumber by trade, an inventor and general practical all-rounder) helped around the farm and the site generally, especially with the irrigation system and repairs to the solar panels. They stayed in the Orbus house and were overall a great blessing to everyone at the Orbus Centre as well as to the security staff at the house and the street children near the house, three of who have become dear to Orbus since early 2011 and who they invited in to the house for a special meal. These visits make a big difference and we recommend the opportunity to you.

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...defend the rights of the poor and needy."* Prov.31:8-9.

### General Malawi News and Items of Interest:

If you would like to keep up to date with news in Malawi you can visit the local news sites: [www.mwnation.com](http://www.mwnation.com) and [www.nyasatimes.com](http://www.nyasatimes.com)

The [April 2012 Newsletter](#) and [August 2012 Newsletter](#) have been re-done as the photos were not of a very good quality. Please feel free to distribute Orbus newsletters.

For those interested please view an interesting [short video clip on poverty](#) from *Poverty Cure*, of which Orbus Australia is a network member.

For a selection of some general photography including of people, insects, flowers, plants, trees, animals and places taken by myself during our time in Malawi, and which reflect some of God's incredible creativeness, please click: [General Photography by Craig Manners](#) .



### Prayer Requests:

- For God to provide a long-term Orbus Australia representative to be based in Blantyre to possibly assist at the Orbus Centre but also to conduct general orphan care ministry in Malawi on our behalf.
- For God's gift of eternal life 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.
- Give thanks for the provision of our new Headmaster and new teachers.
- Thanks for the good start of the new classes.
- For the neediest of the children in the area to come to the Centre.
- For Orbus teachers, staff and volunteers to have a deeper and growing love for OVC, the poor and the neediest in the community and to be selfless, generous and wise in trying to love them.
- For the children who are HIV+.
- For baby "Prayer" a local AIDS orphan Orbus provided milk formula for in 2011/12 for his first year.
- For the Masters children.
- For the street children in Blantyre and Ndirande.
- For more local and foreign volunteers to come to the Orbus Centre.
- For the Blantyre Synod and BSHDC.
- For Orbus staff and volunteers: Wills, Esther, Grace, Zulu, Esme, Triffania, Faris, Lamech, Felix, Leonard, James, John.
- For Synod and BSHDC leadership: Alex, Mercy, Cliff, Andrew and Lonnie.
- Give thanks for Debbie Eve and her much appreciated local help.
- Give thanks for Michael and Dorothy and there wonderful help at the Centre and house in September.
- Give thanks for the contribution of all past local staff and volunteers and for God to richly bless them and their families; specifically for the first staff members Ellen, Flossy, Rhoda, Davey, Benson, Mjojo and John.
- Give thanks for Blessings Kanike and his early contribution in helping the Centre. May God richly bless him and use him. May these special friends of Orbus be encouraged by God and used by God for His glory.
- Pray for the new President Joyce Banda and her new Cabinet. Pray that President Banda will remain faithful to her publicly declared trust in Jesus and fear of God and rule this country boldly but with godly wisdom. That she will use her position to 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 them.

In Jesus Name,

*Craig Manners*



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*"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus Christ (John 6:35)*