



ORBUS AUSTRALIA
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2013



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

Orbus Australia is a Christian not-for-profit volunteer charity which exists to demonstrate the love of God through word and deed to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). 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.orbusafrica.org, to view the [Orbus Photo Albums](#) and to visit the Orbus Centre in Malawi.

Orbus Centre, Malawi, Africa:

The School: The Orbus kindergarten classes and junior primary school classes from grades 1-4 operated through the period. The new grade 4 class started well at the beginning of Term 1 in early September.



The Farm: The Orbus farm had continued success in the pig breeding project with lots of piglets born during the period. The rains came on time and a large crop of maize was planted and is growing well so far. Some of the fruit trees planted in 2011/2012 are producing fruit already.



Other Orbus Activities and News: Orbus Australia funded and organized for a new house to be built for a local grandmother who looks after her orphaned grandchildren. The house was completed in time to beat the rainy season. Orbus also were able to repair a well in a nearby area, replacing parts which were recently stolen. A visitor from Australia to the Orbus Centre in September emailed back a comment on his time there: "This is probably the most awesome experience I have had." Orbus Australia is still looking for a representative to be based in Blantyre and in the meantime a young missionary family from the US are living in the Orbus house in Blantyre.



Malawi News: The biggest financial scandal in Malawi's history, called "Cashgate," has been the biggest story in Malawi recently and has contributed to a crisis of confidence among foreign donors. It has been reported that up to 30% of the nation's budget has been looted over the last 10 years. Foreign donors give large amounts of money to Malawi every year, amounting to approximately 40% of the national budget, and like gifts from foreign churches, including cash and container loads of goods, these funds are provided by foreign well-wishers with Malawi's poor and needy as the intended recipients, yet much of it is plundered by the rich and influential and never reaches those it was intended for. And the poverty goes on, and on, and on... Two BBC articles on this scandal can be read here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25921559> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25912652>

However: *"God takes peculiar care of the poor (Ex 22:23, Deut. 15:9 and 24:15), though they are commonly despised. He does not allow oppression inflicted on them to pass unpunished. From this consideration, the poor and weak ought to derive consolation and more calmly endure distresses and afflictions, because they learn that God takes care of them and will not permit injustice done to them to go unpunished."*

(John Calvin)

"Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous." Psalm 37:16-17

Prayer Requests:

- For God to provide a long-term Orbus Australia representative to be based in Blantyre.
- For each of the children attending the Orbus Centre to put their trust in Jesus.
- For the provision of the children's needs.
- For the new Grade 4 class to go smoothly.
- For the neediest of the children in the area to come to the Centre.
- For Orbus' teachers, staff and volunteers.
- For the children who are HIV+.
- For the Masters children.
- For the street children in Blantyre and Ndirande.

In Jesus Name,

Craig Manners



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"A very good way of testing any view that you may hold is to ask, 'Is this view humbling to me and glorifying to God?' If it is, it is probably right. You will not go far wrong if whatever you are holding is glorifying God and humbling man. But if your view seems to glorify you and to query God, there is no need to argue or to go into details – it is wrong."

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones