



## ORBUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

September 2015 Newsletter



*'God sent His only Son "to serve, not to be served." He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ'. (Queen Elizabeth 2012)*

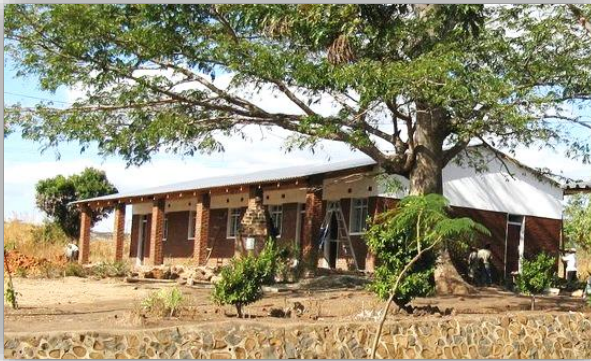
Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. is a Christian volunteer charity which exists to demonstrate the love of God through word and deed to the weak and vulnerable. The Orbus Centre in Ngumbe, Blantyre, Malawi is a joint project between Orbus Australia, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (Australia) and the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

## News Update- September 2015:

**Orbus Kindergarten and Primary School, Ngumbe, Malawi:** The final day for the 2014/15 school year, the 24th July, was marked by each grade presenting a concert or play, including the kindy class. The headmaster, Mr Wills Mbewe and all the teachers are to be commended for their diligence, very high standard of teaching and the good discipline of the pupils throughout the 2014/15 school year.



The 2015/16 school year started on the 7th September. With the classroom building completed on time, desks made, and a new teacher employed, the new Grade 6 class started well, as did the kindy and grades 1-5. There are about 350 children enrolled from kindy to grade six.



The new classroom building.



The new Grade 6 class started on the 7th Sept. 2015.

The new two-classroom school building, with office, storeroom and toilets was officially opened on 4th September 2015 by the Blantyre District Commissioner for the Malawi Government Education Department, who as guest of honour, cut the ribbon and opened the doors to the classrooms. The ceremony was opened in prayer and the new school building dedicated to the glory of God and for the benefit of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and the Ngumbe community.



Introductions were given by Moses Kasitomu, the Education Secretary for the CCAP Blantyre Synod and speeches were given by John Steendam as representative of Orbus Australia and Synod General Secretary Rev. Alex Maulana, who expressed thankfulness to the partnership with Orbus Australia and their commitment to the Orbus School, and also the partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

*“Teach the children at Orbus God’s enduring truths in the Bible, the urgency of trusting Jesus as Saviour and Lord, the value of fearing God, the wisdom in seeking first God’s Kingdom, and avoiding the emptiness of worldly falsehoods. Trust God and His perfect ways, not fallen man and his fallen ways.”*

## Orbus High School for OVC in 2016?

We are now encouraged to pray and plan as we look forward to the next stage of the project: starting a secondary school. As mentioned in the June newsletter, 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 is a big step for us, 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.

Orbus could simply stop where we are and continue to operate just a kindy and primary school, or we could take this big step and start a secondary school in 2016. Funds will be needed to build more classrooms and employ more teachers and staff (until fees are adequate). 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](mailto:craig.manners@orbusministries.org).

We will be guided by the response we receive and hope to make a decision in the first quarter of calendar 2016, as work will need to start on a new classroom by around April 2016, along with some teacher's accommodation.

Below are some recent photos of the classrooms. Standard 3 is the one on the cover of this newsletter.



Standard 1 – September 2015



Standard 2 - September 2015



Standard 4 – September 2015



Standard 5 - September 2015



Kindy/Nursery Class – September 2015

*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”. (1 Thess. 5:16-18)*

**Bibles for Prisoners:** Orbus Ministries Australia are able to distribute Chichewa language Bibles (approx. A\$10.55 per paperback Bible and A\$13.50 per hardback) directly to prisoners in Malawi through the CCAP Blantyre Synod Prisons Chaplaincy. Anyone wanting to contribute funds toward buying Chichewa Bibles can do so by sending the funds to Orbus Ministries Australia Inc., who will then forward the funds, with no administration costs. Please email us with your specific request.

**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.

#### **Donations:**

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:**

- Pray for revival in Malawi.
- 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.
- For the successful completion of the new classroom building.
- For the new teacher and for a smooth start to the new Grade 6 class on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
- For the visit by John and Sue and for their safe return to Australia in September.
- Please pray for wisdom and guidance as plans commence to start the 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.
- Pray for the future of the "Orbus House" project, as it is uncertain whether to continue with it after December.

In Jesus,

*Craig Manners*



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