



ORBUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

Newsletter - September 2016



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)

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 , [Facebook](#) page and to visit the Orbus Centre in Malawi.

News Update: July-September 2016

- Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. has established a [Facebook](#) page and invite you to “like” it.
- Plans are under way for the proposed Presbyterian Youth Victoria (PYV) Mission Trip to Orbus in Malawi 2017.
- The new Grade 7 class started on September 5th.
- Plans are also under way for the construction, resourcing and commencement of the proposed beginning of the Orbus Secondary School for OVC in September 2017.



Cooking afternoon at Orbus



Craft afternoon at Orbus

General News from Orbus in Malawi:

The Steendam's have returned to Australia and report as follows: “The two major projects for this year, consisting of 2 new classrooms and a 4-apartment residential building for teachers, have now been completed. The official opening ceremony was held on the 2nd September, 2016. The official acquittal report, required by the Australian Government, on completion of the ORBUS Teachers Accommodation building (for which the grant or funding was earmarked) has been completed and forwarded to the Australian Embassy, the total expenditure was within the approved budget.

The new school year started last Monday 5th September which included commencement of standard (grade) 7 in one of the new classrooms. 50 new school desks manufactured by the Synod Building Department were delivered last Thursday.

Enrolments of students are still continuing and at present are:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
<i>Nursery</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Standard 1</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>Standard 2</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Standard 3</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Standard 4</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Standard 5</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Standard 6</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Standard 7</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>25</i>
Totals	170	164	334

Funds were made available from ORBUS Australia to purchase from the Malawi Institute of Education, the required text books for students of each grade plus the teacher guidebooks for the school, to fully comply with the Malawi Government Education Department's new school curriculum.

Photo below: From the donations received from the Scottish Hillside school, 128 school uniforms have been made (the tailor teaching at Chigodi Women's Centre purchased the material and sewed up the uniforms).



Orbus students in their new uniforms

Chickens are still continuing to make good progress at ORBUS with the main buyer being the Grace Bandawe Centre. Similarly, the vegetable garden is producing reasonable results, but we are still having some difficulties with the irrigation system. Large areas of the garden are now being prepared for the maize crop, which we pray will produce a much better crop than last year. Many people in Malawi are suffering severe shortages of food at present due to last growing season's poor rainfall."



"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27)



News on Malawi on the ABC:

Hope fades in Malawi as severe drought leaves millions suffering

By freelance correspondents Kayla Robertson and Max Greenstein in Chikwawa
Wed 21 Sep 2016, 8:52am



"There have been plans to drought-proof the nation. One, called the Green Belt Initiative would have irrigated one million hectares of farmland, but it withered through lack of funding."

[Read the full article -->>](#)

News from Malawi Media:

To add to the growing poverty and general hopelessness in Malawi, the poor are again under intense pressure as the government increase the price of the country's staple maize by 127%. A 50 kilogram bag has increased in price from K5,500 to K12,500.

The impact on inflation and the economy is expected to be far reaching, with the hardest hit likely to be those already in extreme poverty who will struggle to pay the increased price.

<http://mwntion.com/apm-orders-127-maize-price-hike/>

<http://www.nyasatimes.com/maize-prices-127-admarc-depots-opens-monday/>

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Malawi in general.
- Please pray for the millions of children who suffer through the extreme poverty and struggles.
- For 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 and for the visitors and volunteers from Australia: Especially for John and Sue and their safe return to Australia.
- Please pray for wisdom and guidance for the plans to commence the Orbus secondary school in 2017.
- Pray for the preparations for the proposed PYV mission trip in 2017.

In Jesus,

Craig Manners

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*“Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.” (Isaiah 1:17)*



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