



ORBUS NEWSLETTER
JANUARY TO APRIL 2012



"Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, for their Defender is strong; He will take up their case against you." (Proverbs/Miyambo 23:10-11)



*"Musamaba, kapena kunyenga, kapena kunamizana."
(Levitiko 19:11)*

Orbus Australia is a Christian faith motivated 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 Update: January to April 2012

The OVC Nutritional Feeding Project:

Orbus continued to feed the children at the Centre a vitamin and mineral enriched porridge every morning Monday to Friday. Additionally fruit from the Orbus farm was occasionally available for the children including paw-paw and bananas.

*"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and He will reward him for what he has done."
(Proverbs 19:17).*



The Orbus School:

Orbus provides classes for Under 3's, Kindergarden (started in September 2010) and Grade 1 of the Orbus Primary School (started in September 2011). Additionally, as of the beginning of Term 1 in September 2012 it is planned to open Grades 2 and 3. The following are a selection of photos from January to April 2012, some showing a few of the many visitors to the Centre.



General Secretary of the CCAP Blantyre Synod, Rev Alex Maulana.



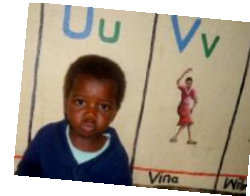
Synod Education Dept. Director Lester Namathaka



Synod School's Chaplain Rev. Njumbo



Lt. Colonel Rev. Makata (Nansengwe and Chilaweni CCAP)



Grade 1 Classroom Makeover:

The Grade 1 classroom walls have been given a Happy Classrooms makeover, with educational material, songs and Bible memory verses.

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world red and yellow, black and white. They are precious in his sight Jesus loves the little children of the world.



FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD (ROMANS 3:23) FOR THE WAGES OF THE SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD (ROMAN 6:23) 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 Chalembera ndi cha blue
The cup is yellow Kapu ndiya chikawu
Tomatoes are red Matimati ndi uwopira



I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11

Short-Term Mission Team from Frankston, Australia:

Orbus were very much blessed by a month long visit from a group of seven volunteers from Australia, mostly from the Frankston Presbyterian Church in Victoria. Pip, Casey and Alicia helped out with the feeding program, in the classroom teaching, in the playground playing with the children as well as in numerous other ways such as sorting through resources. Among other things Craig, Mark, Matt and James joined 22 local builders and labourers building the new classroom building. Apart from this their presence has acted as a great encouragement to many people here in Malawi, from the children, to the volunteers, the parents and guardians, the staff, and my family and I.



“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9



The Orbus Farm and Agricultural Income Producing Initiatives:

The remainder of the maize from the 2010/2011 year was sold in January at good prices realising almost enough money to pay for one month's local staff wages bill. The vision of being able to provide OVC with a free, quality Christian education will very much depend on Orbus' ability to profitably utilize the 6 hectares of land to generate income but also to then collect and retain the income. This is one of our main challenges, but not the only one. On top of the problems with theft, late rains and locusts caused a reduced harvest of maize, soya beans and pigeon peas this season.

In addition to the crops planted in December 2011, and then additional crops in January 2012, much has been done between December 2011 and April 2012 to establish farm income generating initiatives on the property. These have included increasing the goat numbers to 35; building a pig house with 10 pig pens out of rubble and bricks already on site and making a start by buying 5 pigs; planting 600 blue gums altogether, to sell as poles and firewood; planting more fruit trees, including 121 additional mango trees, 5 extra guava and orange trees; 8 grape vines; 18 passion fruit vines; 15 new banana trees and lots of new sugar cane plantings along the river front; sunflowers; more paw-paw trees and 2 mulberry trees. The 1,000 tomato plants planted in December 2011 successfully produced healthy tomatoes in February/March but we only sold 201 tomatoes. It has been established that thousands of tomatoes were stolen. Changes have recently been implemented and another tomato crop was started in late April.



Orbus sold the remaining maize from 2011 in January 2012, planted another crop in December and January and harvested the December 2011 crop in April.



Orbus grew 1000 tomato plants and giant sunflowers as well as the pigeon peas and soya beans, some of which were harvested in April.



Some of the sugar cane crop is being sold by two grandmothers for Orbus on the roadside. Blue gums are growing well. The first bananas were mostly enjoyed by the children. Passion-fruit vines have been planted.



The pig house now houses 5 pigs and there are 35 goats as at April 24th 2012.

“Zakudya za cinyengo zikondweretsa munthu; Koma pambuyo-pae m’kamwa mwace mudzadzala tinsangalabwi.” (Miyambo Proverbs 20:17)

One of the main threats to the long-term viability of the Orbus Centre at Ngumbe is from corruption, theft, dishonesty and selfishness. Over the past few months Orbus have suffered at the hands of thieves who have stolen iron sheets; the whole roof off the outdoor toilet; timber poles; lots of sugar-cane (with one arrest made so far); hundreds of mangoes; thousands of tomatoes; truck-loads of river sand and numerous other items. Thieves smashed a door and broke into the Martyn Lloyd-Jones building. There have been reports made of corrupt procurement practices whereby local “friends” who assisted Orbus in the purchasing of goods then received kick-backs (Mzungu Premium) from the sellers. There has also been an alarming attempt to extort money from Orbus.

The Orbus Centre can only continue and provide a free Nursery School, Primary School and hopefully a Secondary School and Vocational Training for OVC if the staff, volunteers, local churches and the community are committed to make it work and work together to stop corruption and theft rather than perpetuating the attitude of taking advantage of foreign well-wishers for short-term gain.

For the benefit of these children Orbus therefore encourage the reporting of any corrupt practice and every instance of theft to the local Police (099 4444 222), **and** to the CCAP Blantyre Synod 01836744 btynod@broadbandmw.com **and** to Orbus Australia at admin@orbusafrica.org. Corruption ruins lives in many ways. It destroys reputations, careers and potentially families, and as Proverbs 23:10-11 reveals God will deal with those who steal from orphans.

*“Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.”
(Miyambo Proverbs 20:17)*

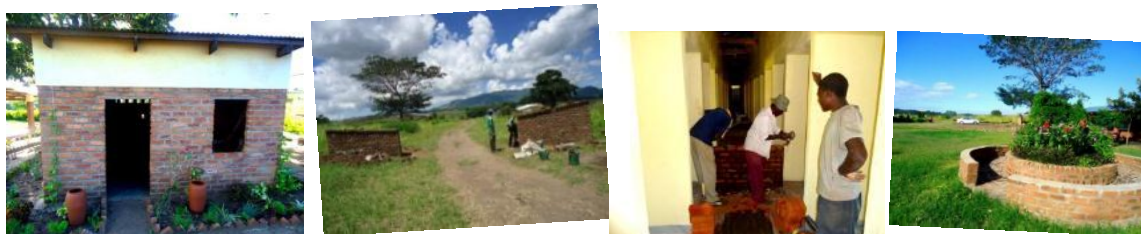
General Site Improvements:

Among other things: new road-side signs were painted; A row of 13 flamboyant trees were planted on the entrance road, followed by an extension of the row of frangipanis leading into a new brick entranceway after which is the avenue of mahogany trees; Hundreds of various indigenous and exotic shrubs and flowering plants were planted between January and April 2012 in front of the kitchen area, the guard house and along the end of both the Charles Spurgeon and Martyn Lloyd-Jones Buildings and the Augustine Gardens and Well area. More grass was planted in various areas too. One objective is to give these children a beautiful place to learn and an appreciation of God’s creative world.

The conversion of the Lloyd-Jones building into four separate four room apartments/houses started in April 2012. One apartment is to be made available to foreign volunteers and three will be for teacher’s accommodation. This will allow Orbus to attract teachers from further afield by offering accommodation.



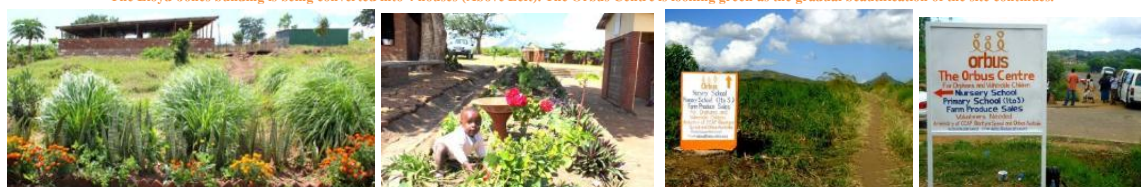
The Augustine Gardens and Well (L and Centre); The main courtyard (R).



The Guard House (L); New entranceway; Conversion of Lloyd-Jones Building.



The Lloyd-Jones building is being converted into 4 houses (Above Left). The Orbus Centre is looking green as the gradual beautification of the site continues.



The pig pens (L) and extended goat enclosure (R).

100's of plants have been planted.

New road-side signs were painted in April.

New Classroom Building:

A new classroom building was started in March. This building will have 3.5m wide verandahs on two sides and 3m on one end, with classrooms for Grades 2 and 3 as well as an office, a storeroom and three toilets. The four generous men from the Frankston Team all have building experience so they were a huge help in this building project and big encouragement to the 22 local workmen.



General Malawi News:

On 5th April Malawi's President Bingu Wa Mutharika died unexpectedly of a suspected heart-attack. The government sent his body to South Africa and did not announce his death for two days! After a period of tense political maneuvering, during which members of the government were apparently plotting ways of retaining power, with support from the military the Vice President Joyce Banda was finally taken to State House and sworn in as Malawi's fourth president since independence, on the 7th April 2012, day the Frankston team arrived. Africa's second female leader, Banda, a member of a CCAP Blantyre Synod congregation, has implemented many changes and has generated much hope and unity in this economically and politically troubled country in a short space of time. For an interesting article on these events click [here](#):

Prayer Requests:

- For God's gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ for each of the children attending the Orbus Centre. One of the children in the Under 3's class died in April. This is a reminder that some of the Orbus children are at risk of early death. Please continue to keep these children in your prayers.
- For salvation of souls in the wider area -Ngumbe, Kameza, Lunzu, Nansengwe and Malunga, Mulenga and Daniel Villages.
- For the preparations for starting Grades 2 and 3 to go smoothly.
- For Christian teachers to be found for the new classes.
- For the neediest of the children in the area to come to the Centre.
- For Orbus staff and volunteers to have a deeper and growing love for OVC, the poor and the neediest in the community and to be selfless and generous.
- For more local and foreign volunteers to come to the Orbus Centre.
- For the staff, volunteers, parents, guardians and local community around Orbus to help stop the theft, dishonesty and selfishness which threatens the viability of the Centre.
- For disruptions from recent staff changes to be short-lived.
- Give thanks for the contribution of all past staff and volunteers and for God to richly bless them.
- For John and Sue as they volunteer at the Centre until the end of July.
- For a long-term Mission Director of the Orbus Centre.
- Give thanks for the Frankston short-term mission team, for their willingness to come and dedicated work at the Centre.
- Thank God for Malawi's peaceful political transition in April.
- Pray for the new President Joyce Banda and her new Cabinet. Pray that President Banda will remain faithful to her publicly declared trust in and fear of God and rule this country boldly with godly wisdom.

With thanks for Jesus,

Craig Mannors



Web: www.OrbusAfrica.org Email: admin@orbusafrica.org

*"Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil."
(Proverbs/Miyambo 15:16)*