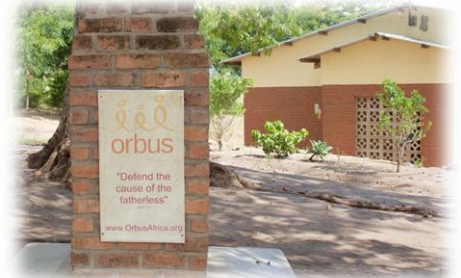
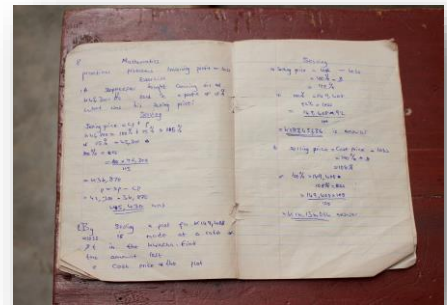
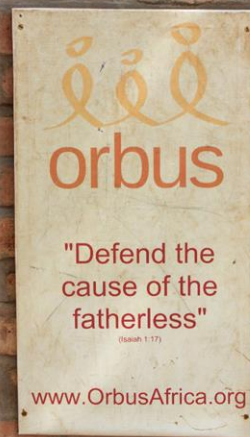




ORBUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

Newsletter - June 2016



"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6-7 NLT)

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, to view the [Orbus Photo Albums](#) and to visit the Orbus Centre in Malawi.

News Update: April-June 2016

Presbyterian Youth Victoria (PYV) Proposed Mission Trip to Malawi in 2017: In June/July 2017 PYV plans to send a team to Blantyre, Malawi to work at the Orbus Centre. The team will be spending time contributing to some educational and practical needs of the Orbus Centre, and will also be involved in Bible teaching and children's ministry. The team will also visit local churches to encourage, and participate in gospel ministry. If you would like to read more preliminary details about the trip please [click here](#). Any questions please call Emily Venning on 0401659336 or send an email to e.g.venning@gmail.com

Kevin Murray, the National Director of Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) visited the Orbus Centre in Malawi in March 2016 and has kindly provided the following report and photos (more of Kevin's photos are available [online](#)):

"I know it's stating the obvious but we live in a broken world. As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ we are able to show people that in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, God has begun to put the world back together again. We have the privilege of visibly demonstrating to the watching world that following Jesus has transformed us from being self-centred into people who care for others. The Christian faith is one of action and that action is often shown in the way that we care for others.

We read in the book of James 'What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.' (James 2:14-17) To follow Christ means caring for others were we have the opportunity.

The ORBUS ministry is a visible way of showing the love of Christ to those in great need. In March this year I visited Malawi and was able to experience something of the ORBUS ministry. I visited at a time when the school was in recess but I was able to visit the buildings and speak with the school Principal. In the face of the struggle for daily survival in Malawi ORBUS is a terrific ministry of hope!

The ORBUS buildings are very impressive. They appear to be very well built and provide a good environment for learning. Thank you to those supporters who have made these buildings possible! While at the school I was able to witness the work that had begun on the next round of buildings and it was good to see the attention to detail in the construction. I was impressed with the partnership that exists between Lameck, the building supervisor, and John Steendam. What a great team!

The Principal of the school says "The basic aim of ORBUS is to help the orphans and vulnerable children from nearby villages, many of whom come from poor backgrounds. We have 9 teachers and we teach children from Kindergarten to Year 6. We hope to be able to extend this to secondary education and even technical education."

While I was at the school I visited the women's Bible study which is run by Sue Steendam. It was great to see the group studying the Word of God and learning of God's grace in Christ. It was clear that these ladies greatly enjoy gathering and learning. Who knows what this ministry will do for eternity as the Word goes out?

I left ORBUS thanking God for working through His people, both in Malawi and Australia, because vulnerable children are being cared for and the Word of God is going out!" Kevin Murray



SCHOOL ENROLMENT 2015-2016											
MONTH	ST1	ST2	ST3	ST4	ST5	ST6	ST7	ST8	ST9	ST10	TOTAL
JANUARY	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	212
FEBRUARY	11	14	17	20	23	26	29	32	35	38	205
MARCH	10	13	16	19	22	25	28	31	34	37	198
APRIL	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	191
MAY	8	11	14	17	20	23	26	29	32	35	184
JUNE	7	10	13	16	19	22	25	28	31	34	177
JULY	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	170
AUGUST	5	8	11	14	17	20	23	26	29	32	163
SEPTEMBER	4	7	10	13	16	19	22	25	28	31	156
OCTOBER	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	149
NOVEMBER	2	5	8	11	14	17	20	23	26	29	142
DECEMBER	1	4	7	10	13	16	19	22	25	28	135
TOTAL	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	325	2100



General News: The following is a summary of reports gratefully received from John in Malawi for the period April - June 2016: "All the activities at Orbus are going well including the school, gardens, livestock and the building program. We praise God for His care and provision over all the work being done for the orphans and vulnerable children here in Malawi. To God be the Glory!!"

The second term commenced after the two-week Easter break. Porridge continues to be provided to the children. The chicken project has run into some difficulties due to a large international enterprise entering the chicken sales market here and undercutting the selling price of broiler chickens by the small Malawi chicken farmers. Orbus has been selling some of its chickens to the CCAP-owned Grace Bandawe hotel. The goats continue to breed and the current stock level is 16 goats. The maize harvest is expected to be somewhat less than previous years due to poor rainfall during the growing season.



Maize harvest.



Goat shed under renovation.



Dressing chickens.



Farm Manager Lameck.



Angelina from Grace Bandawe buying 100 chickens from the Orbus farm.



Porridge preparation.



Lining up at the kitchen.



The porridge helps the children to play and learn



Orbus Teachers: Seated left to right – Grace Mabedi (Grade 1); Wills Mbewe (Headmaster and Grade 3); Evelyn Zulu (Nursery) and Elton Kusakala (Grade 4). Standing left to right- Henry Mulekele (Grade 6); Samantha Kasambiza (Grade 2) and Harry Matambo (Grade 5)

Materials for the construction of 50 new school desks have been purchased. New tables have been made for the nursery school children to help them in their lessons and craft activities. The tables were constructed by a young carpenter living in the local Ngumbe area. The kindy/nursery teachers, under direction of Mrs Evelyn Zulu, have been exemplary in their dedication and care for these young children.

Apart from Kevin's visit, and John and Sue, three other visitors were received from Australia during the period. Orbus was blessed to have Doug & Diane Brownley and Steve Harris (Reservoir PC) visit. Doug and Steve helped with onsite maintenance, and Diane helped Sue minister to the children, parents and guardians. They were warmly welcomed and greatly appreciated, including by these children (below) who received gifts of hand-made clothing from a Milawa family.



Doug, Diane and Steve.



From Milawa to Malawi with love.

From Sue: A few months ago I met Etiny, a Malawian lady who is involved with CEF. She runs programs in schools, reaching out to children of all ages with the Good News of Jesus Christ. She has now started her program at Orbus, so while I lead a Bible study with the ladies on Monday afternoons, Etiny runs her program in another classroom, over 100 children attend each week now.



Etiny and Sue conducting their women's and children's activities after school hours at Orbus.

From John: Good progress has been made with the 2016 building projects at Orbus. The two new classrooms and the four teacher's apartments are well on the way as can be seen from the photos below. There are nearly 50 people employed onsite, giving employment to many families during this time of poor crops. The buildings are really powering ahead, with the 2 new classrooms having the roofs completed, internal walls rendered, enormous blackboards completed and the outside pointing/sealing well underway. Roofing trusses have now been constructed and erected at the teacher apartments and the IBR roofing is soon to be installed.

It has been such a great experience and help to have Steve and Doug working at Orbus. They have dismantled the old goat shed, have converted part of the pig shed to house the goats who, after some hesitancy, now have a new comfortable home. The next project completed was renewing part of the chicken shed roofing, plus constructing shutters on all the windows to prevent rain pouring into the sheds during the wet season. There are a number of further maintenance projects that need to be done, so there is no time for them to relax!

“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:3-4)



“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.” (Psalm 37:5-7)



A group of Scottish students from the [Whitehill Secondary School](#) in Glasgow visited Orbus in July. They spent time playing with the children and did other activities with them.

On the day of their departure from Malawi they generously donated their 15 sleeping bags and towels. As Sue reports: "On the evening prior to their departure back to Scotland, three of the Whitehill students gave a short talk on their impression of Orbus and the prison ministry and gave US\$500 to help the Orbus school and US\$250 to help the prison ministry. This was of great encouragement to us especially as this was a gift from the students themselves. In discussion with our Orbus Headmaster, we propose to arrange making school uniforms with this donation, for the Orbus students who cannot afford to have one made."

All the Orbus students sat their exams in early July, started their long holiday break on the 15th July and will start the new school year on 5th September, when the new Grade 7 class is due to begin.

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: Kevin, John, Sue, Steve, Doug and Diane.
- 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.

"Them that honour me I will honour." (1 Samuel 2:30). How can we mere creatures honour God? In many ways, such as by our testimony communicated by word and by deed. We are saved, not for pleasure and leisure, but for good works. (Titus 3:8) To do. To serve. To help. To speak. To pray. To go. Action is required. Verbal and practical action is something every Christian is called to be involved in. (Matthew 28:19-20)

In Jesus,

Craig Manners

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