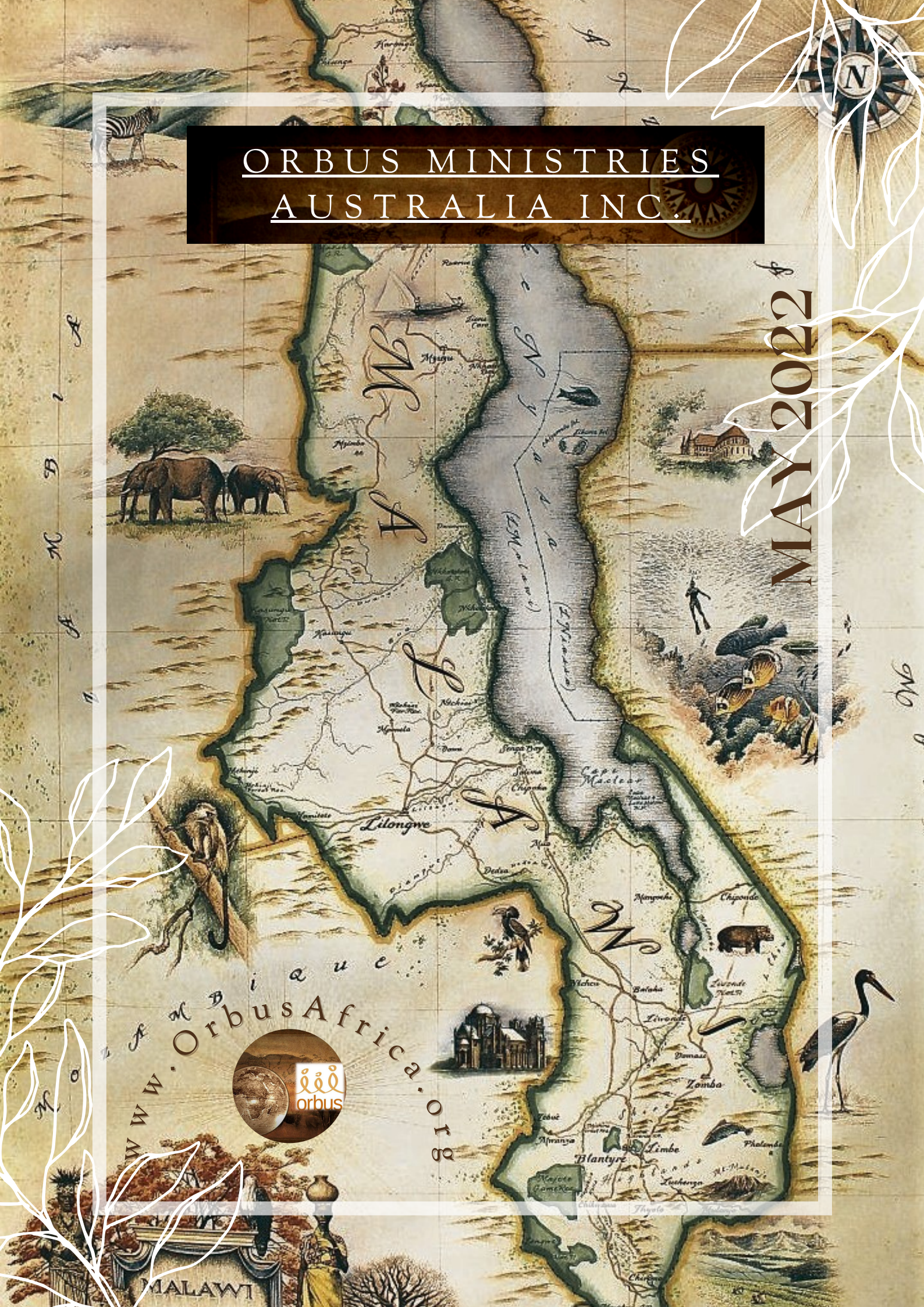


ORBUS MINISTRIES
AUSTRALIA INC.

MAY 2022

www.OrbusAfrica.org





Orbus News

MAY 2022

The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) - Blantyre Synod reported in April 2022 that the student numbers at the Orbus Mission Schools have increased to a total of 632 students. There are 305 students enrolled in the secondary school, including 208 boarders, and 327 in primary and nursery. There are 98 orphans and vulnerable children enrolled and receiving a free education.

This growth, especially in secondary is placing some pressure on resources and the need for more facilities.

Background: Over the past 14 years we have slowly been developing what is known as the Orbus Centre, which now includes a kindergarten class, primary and secondary school and a small-scale farm, on a 20-acre property about 15 minutes' drive north of Blantyre.

The property was bought by Australian donors in 2008 from the Malawian government and is held in trust by the *Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP)- Blantyre Synod* and the *Presbyterian Church of Victoria (Australia)* under a legal agreement. We believe this arrangement ensures the longevity of the project and provides confidence for all parties to operate and continue development. The Australian Government has also had some involvement with the project, funding (via DFAT), and through the Australian Embassy in Zimbabwe, a teacher's accommodation building in 2014.

There are two perpetual Trustees of the Orbus Centre. They are the person holding the position of the General Secretary of the *Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP)- Blantyre Synod* and the person holding the position of Clerk of the Assembly of the *Presbyterian Church of Victoria*.

Good Progress: The Orbus Centre is currently financially self-sustainable, mostly from fees from secondary school and boarding students, which covers day to day operational costs and also underwrites a free education for orphans and vulnerable children through to the completion of secondary education.

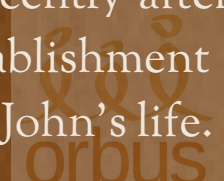
However, there are still many areas Australian donors can make a huge difference in. Whilst we have been developing slowly, with limited funds, there is opportunity for donors to contribute to a more rapid development of what could become a significant Australian initiative and contribution to this part of Malawi.

Current Needs: As at May 2022 there are current areas of need at the schools including the need for new classrooms, a new boarding accommodation building, teacher accommodation building, a multi-purpose hall (for dining/church services/assemblies/hiring out), administration building, chemistry lab, library and computer room.

There is plenty of room for new buildings on the property and there are staff who have overseen most of the buildings and can build at reasonable prices.

PresAID: The Presbyterian Church of Australia, through PresAID, conducted a collection over Christmas 2021 to go toward buildings at the Orbus Centre in 2022. We are very grateful to God and PresAID and all donors from congregations around Australia for the extremely generous donation of A\$59,000. We hope to see commencement of building activity in the coming weeks.

Vale John Steendam: Sadly our friend John passed away recently after a prolonged illness. John played an important role in the establishment of the Orbus ministry in Malawi and we give thanks to God for John's life.



Future Projects: Additionally, Orbus Australia are currently seeking donations to facilitate large scale, climate friendly, future projects in Malawi which will help the environment and employ local Malawians to do so.

With the existing 20-acre Orbus property at Ngumbe, good staff, a readily available source of water, good local labour supply, good local contacts and partnerships, an in-house building team and established good governance, there is potential, in tandem with developing the schools, to begin these future projects in 2023/24.

These include wells/pumps, tree planting, fuel-efficient stoves, and a trades/skills development centre. See: Future Projects Presentation

Donating to Orbus: Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. (ABN 14 458 768 638) is a Public Benevolent Institution endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) covered by Item 1.

Donations to Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. for the schools and Orbus future projects (OFP) are tax deductible in Australia as part of Orbus' commitment to providing relief and development in Malawi.

Tax-deductible donations can be made by Electronic Funds Transfer:

A/C Name: Orbus Ministries Australia Inc

Bank: Bank of Melbourne/Westpac

BSB: 333 038

Account No: 553 913 774

Ref: (Either) *FutureProjects* or *Schools*

If you would like any further information please feel free to make contact.



PRAYER

- Give thanks for the generous PresAID donation and for building work to go smoothly.
- Pray for the current requirements for additional new buildings, teachers, desks, and school resources.
- For the 37 teachers and staff at Orbus, and their families.
- For the 632 students.
- For Orbus' "Future Projects" initiative.
- For the development of an outdoor basketball/netball court.
- For God's blessing on the 2021 secondary graduates. May they know and follow Christ.
- For the CCAP Orbus church congregation which meets at the school every Sunday.
- For the provision of the orphans and vulnerable children's (OVC) spiritual and material needs.
- For the poor, OVC, elderly, and sick throughout Malawi.
- For the smooth operation of the Orbus schools.
- For the leadership of the Orbus schools, the Blantyre Synod, and Orbus Australia.
- Give thanks for John Steendam's life and involvement with Orbus. Pray for comfort for Sue and family as they grieve.

In Jesus Name,

Craig Manners
CEO, Orbus Ministries Australia Inc.
craig.manners@orbusministries.org

"Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name". (Daniel 9:19)

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