



ORBUS AUSTRALIA
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

Orbus' 7th Anniversary
2007 to 2014



"This is love for God: to obey his commands" (1 John 5:3) ... such as: "to love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt. 19:19), "look after orphans and widows in their distress" (James 1:27), "do good to all people" (Gal. 6:10), be a Good Samaritan (Luke 10:37), feed the hungry, provide for the needy, care for the sick, visit the prisoner (Matt. 25:35-36).

Orbus Ministries Australia Inc is a Christian not-for-profit 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.orbusafrica.org, to view the [Orbus Photo Albums](#) and to visit the Orbus Centre in Malawi.

News Update- September 2014:

Orbus Centre, Malawi:

The Orbus Centre opened in 2010 with a kindergarten for orphans and vulnerable children. The following year the Orbus Junior Primary School began with a grade 1 class starting in September 2011. We then added a grade 2 & 3 class in 2012, a grade 4 class in 2013 and this year in September a grade 5 class was started.

Our hope is that in 2015 we can start a grade 6 class, however we have run out of classrooms and will require a new building to be completed by August 2015. If anyone is interested in assisting with the funding of this new classroom building, or in joining a team to travel to Malawi in mid-2015 to help Lameck build it, please contact us at craig.manners@orbusafrica.org

The new grade 5 class has started well, as has the new teacher, Mr. Mulekele. The student numbers reported as at September are as follows: Kindy- 36; Grade 1- 55; Grade 2- 52; Grade 3- 36; Grade 4- 28; Grade 5- 21. Total: 228.

General news: A Centre Management Committee has been established comprising of one police officer, the farm manager Lameck, head master Wills and the chairperson of School Management Committee. The committee will be looking at security, social welfare and general outlook of Orbus. Minimal school fees of 500k (A\$1.50) per term have been introduced for those able to pay, with the neediest OVC children not having to pay. The boxes of assorted items sent to Orbus Malawi from Australia arrived safely. Many thanks to those who thought of Orbus in sending these items.

Orbus House, Australia:

Orbus Ministries Australia (OMA) have established a new project in Australia, south east of Melbourne, in partnership with The Babes Project, to provide emergency accommodation and professional, caring support for pregnant women in crisis pregnancy situations. "Orbus House" was rented and established in December 2013 as a comfortable, safe environment for mother and baby. We are blessed to be able to partner with The Babes Project, a Christian group who have a wealth of experience in this field, as well as with a PCV congregation near Orbus House, which provides a key ingredient of a caring community showing Christian love in practical ways to women in need and their babies.

The first mother to be accommodated, "Sarah" is thriving in Orbus House. Her son is almost 6 months old and they have definitely settled in and seem to be at home. This is the first "home" she has ever had which is safe and warm.

We recently celebrated her birthday with cake and gifts... the first she has celebrated in 8 years! She was overwhelmed! Her son was also baptised and she is so thankful to God for keeping them safe and giving them a home.

We are introducing a new support worker to the home who will spend a day each with there, cooking and gardening with "Sarah." We are teaching her how to cook Western food as she loves lasagne and mashed potato! It is our hope that another resident can move in soon too, though we are still working out red tape!



Above: Emma, one of our team members with baby Daniel, the 1st baby to be born at Orbus House.

Orbus Finances:

Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. has minimal administration expenses, as it is a volunteer charity. Donations made to OMA are therefore fully distributed to ministry projects.

The whole Orbus Centre in Malawi now costs approximately A\$30,000 per year to operate, not including any income generated from the farm. OMA are committed to contributing to any shortfall for the next 2-3 years. Due to implementing wage increases in July, and adding one new teacher, the expenses are higher than they have ever been.

Still, for only approximately A\$82 per day our community in Australia are helping to educate 228 underprivileged children; feeding them a nutritious meal five-days-a-week; employ 14 local teachers and staff (thereby supporting 14 local families in one of the poorest countries in the world); generally providing an economic boost through the local economy; and most importantly helping to make sure these children and their families hear about Jesus.

All this is done with practically no administration fees at the Australian end (only bank transfer fees). I am sure you will agree this is a remarkably worthy use of A\$30,000 and it makes Orbus a unique charity well worth supporting.

Most of the time when we dwell upon the objectives of the Orbus ministry we naturally think in terms of how the children are benefiting. It is helpful also to consider the positive impact OMA have in the lives of the Orbus Centre's 14 Malawian employees and their families and the wider community around the Centre. I for one see it as a great privilege for OMA to be involved in enabling the Orbus Centre in Malawi to be able to offer this employment, especially considering this is one of the poorest parts of the world where people find it very difficult to find employment. It still needs to be sustainable though, as what happens if the donations in Australia stop? So we need to pray that the farm will work, and that funds will be managed well.

We do not actively seek or ask for donations and have been blessed every year with just about enough money for that year. We also do not have the administration resources to send thank you letters or printed newsletters to donors/supporters but would like to assure you we are very grateful to all donors who have been involved since 2007. If you would like to donate, there is a [donations page](#) on the website with all the details which are also listed below:

Donations in Australia can be made:

By cheque:

South Yarra Presbyterian Church-Orbus Contra A/C
PO Box 9007
South Yarra
Victoria 314; AUSTRALIA

By Electronic Funds Transfer:

A/C Name: Orbus Ministries Australia Inc.
Bank: Bank of Melbourne
BSB: 333 038
Account No: 553 913 774

Please email us on admin@orbusafrica.org with the details of your donation so we can follow it up.

7th Anniversary of Orbus:

As we have no current Malawi photos from the past few months this newsletter celebrates the 7th anniversary of the Orbus ministry by using a selection of old photos of the ministry on the cover and the page which follows.

Prayer Requests:

- For each of the children attending the Orbus Centre to put their trust in Jesus.
- For the salvation of souls in the wider area.
- For the neediest of the children in the area to come to the Centre.
- For the children who are HIV+.
- For the provision of the children's material needs.
- Praise God for the smooth start of the new Grade 5 class.
- For the policemen and their families.
- For Orbus' teachers, staff and volunteers.
- Give thanks for all past staff and volunteers.
- For the new teacher, Mr. Mulekele.
- Give thanks for the last 7 years of the Orbus ministry.



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

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

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Below are a small selection of photos to celebrate the 7th anniversary of Orbus. A larger selection can be seen on the [Orbus web albums](#).



"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 9:1)