



ORBUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA
Newsletter – September 2017



Opening of the *Orbus Mission Secondary School* 11th September 2017



First day of school: *Orbus Mission Secondary School* (Form 1) 25th September 2017

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”
Matthew 5:6

Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. is a Christian volunteer charity which exists to demonstrate the love of God through word and deed to the poor and vulnerable. The Orbus Centre in Daniel Village, Ngumbe, Blantyre, Malawi is a joint mission between Orbus Australia, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Blantyre Synod and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (Australia). We invite you to visit the Orbus Australia website at www.OrbusMinistries.org, [Facebook](#) page and to visit the Orbus Centre in Malawi.

News Brief: September 2017

- PYV Mission Team - Successful visit concluded in July.
- Gail Van Heerden from St. Andrews visits and blesses Orbus children.
- 1st secondary building completed in 3 ½ months, at a cost of approx. US\$33,000.
- 2nd secondary building started.
- Bibles distributed to builders, teachers and staff.
- Bibles, WSC teaching manuals and student booklets distributed to all classrooms.
- Orbus Chess Club established and resourced.
- Malawian and Sth African universities and Old Mutual bless Orbus orphans with gifts.
- Whole school re-painting concluded and maintenance carried out.
- New playground equipment installed.
- Furniture bought.
- Bible verses and mural painted on classroom walls.
- Last day of 2016/17 school year marked by further gifts for all Orbus orphans from Australia.
- Opening ceremony conducted for *Orbus Mission Secondary School* on 11th September 2017.
- Five new teachers added (2 primary, 3 secondary).
- New school year starts for *Orbus Primary School* including successful start of Std 8 on 18th September.
- *Orbus Mission Secondary School* approved by Malawi govt. after visit by 3 inspectors on 20th Sept.
- First boarders arrive at Orbus and settle into the Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones building on 24th September.
- The *Orbus Mission Secondary School* starts Form 1 on 25th September 2017.
- APWM/PresAID funded solar powered water project started.
- Visits to Orbus of old friends Rev. John Wilson and the Steendams.



The first Form 1 class on day one of the new *Orbus Mission Secondary School* - 25th September 2017

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving.” Psalm 147:3-7

Orbus News – July to September 2017:

2017 Mission Accomplished:



Orbus secondary (foreground) and primary. Boarding Matron Aida. Cooks Leonard & Felix. 1st boarder (Lucy) and Matron Aida 25th Sept.

Standard 8 and Form 1 of the Orbus Mission Secondary School started:

As planned and approved in 2016 by Orbus Ministries Australia Inc. and our partners in Malawi, the CCAP Blantyre Synod, and communicated to donors and stakeholders over the past year and a half, the Orbus Mission Secondary School has now been successfully established and began classes on 25th September 2017.

Our two main 2017 goals were accomplished in September: 1- The Orbus Primary School became a full primary with the Std 8 class starting on 18th September. 2- The Orbus Mission Secondary School has started with Form 1. All glory and praise to God for this success amidst many challenges. Enrollments are 445 for the primary and 26 for Form 1 secondary, including 7 boarders.

The first secondary classroom building was completed in 3 ½ months at a cost of approx. US\$33,000.

One of the largest buildings we have built at Orbus, this building has two large classrooms, a large Head Teacher's office, a large staff room, (doubling as a temporary laboratory and library room until the next building is completed) and 11 toilets. The two verandahs (khondes) provide welcome relief from the Ngumbe heat. Below are a selection of photographs from laying the foundation stone on 5th June through to the first day of Form 1 on 25th September 2017. There are more photos online at the [photo journal](#) of the construction progress. A 2nd building of the same design was started on 7th August.



*“His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; The Lord delights in those who fear
him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.” Psalm 147:10-11*

We have thoroughly enjoyed overseeing this next stage of development at Orbus, the construction and establishment of the *Orbus Mission Secondary School*, working closely with Moses, Lameck and the CCAP Blantyre Synod. It has been a very busy but very rewarding time since my family and I arrived in late May.

With much effort, planning, resources, perseverance and energy from many people since mid-2016, the vision of Orbus providing secondary education in Ngumbe is now a reality. Praise God!

There have been many people praying for this goal to be achieved, and working to bring it about, since early 2016. It has not been without its challenges, but with God's help the school has started. Already we are working on adding the Form 2 and maybe Form 3 (?) class in 2018. (For health reasons the Steendams did not arrive until August, when John got Lameck started on the second classroom building which it is planned will be used for the 2018 expansion.)

Special thanks and mention should be made of those whose support and dedication to seeing this school start in September have been integral to it becoming reality. These include Vin Lopes, Rob Boyle, Moses Kasitomu (CCAP Blantyre Synod – Education Secretary), Orbus Head Teacher Wills Mbewe and Farm Manager Lameck Chitela. Also the positive encouragement of the Synod's Deputy General Secretary Rev. Moyenda Kanjerwa, Lester Namathaka (Previous Education Secretary) and Rev. Lyton Kilowe (Minister at Nansengwe CCAP).



Craig, Lester and Moses



Lameck



Craig and Rev. Kilowe



Rev. Kanjerwa

Other News:

Australian visitors:

The PYV Mission team visit for three weeks to mid-July was a huge success. Other valued visitors during the period included a 2 week visit by St. Andrews teacher Gail Van Heerden. The impact of these visits has lasted long after their departure, with songs taught still being heard around Orbus (and no doubt villages too), and learning materials on classroom walls still teaching lessons. Their impact on local churches, especially the youth groups, continues to be evident also. Please read a [summary](#) of the PYV mission trip. We thank God for these visits and also for visits from PCA Moderator Rev. John Wilson and the Steendams, with John working with Lameck on the 2nd building, with J.J. Sonke, who organized the septic piping, and a local solar company who have started the APWM/PresAID funded solar water project. Sue has been amazing as usual conducting her filled sessions at Orbus with the guardians, local women and police wives.



Universities visit Orbus orphans with gifts:

Orbus was chosen by several universities to be their annual recipient of gifts for orphans and vulnerable children. University of Malawi Staff Sports Association (Umssa) recently held it's annual Inter-Varsity Games at

the College of Medicine in Blantyre, between members of staff from the University of Malawi, the College of Medicine, Chancellor College, Kamuzu College of Nursing, The Polytechnic, Malawi University of Science and Technology (Must), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Luanar) and University of Limpopo (South Africa). During the afternoon, before the finals, participants and the media descended on Orbus to present various gifts of clothing, toiletries, school resources and money specifically for the 178 orphans then registered at Orbus primary school. See photos and report [HERE](#).



Some of the Orbus orphans (photo above) were blessed by several universities on 22nd July.

Bibles distributed:

Bibles funded by APWM, St. Andrews Christian College and Orbus Australia have been distributed widely over the past few months, including to each of the workers who worked on the new secondary building, to teachers and staff and also a class-set of Bibles have been placed in every classroom at Orbus. Additionally, courtesy of APWM, framed 10 Commandment posters have been placed on classroom walls, and class-sets of Westminster Shorter Catechism booklets and teacher manuals placed in each class.



“Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:19

Orbus Chess Club established:

With resources provided by Nick Speck, from Chess Education, some of the children have learnt how to play chess, with a student led chess club being resourced and established at Orbus, located in Std 8 but open to the whole school.



Following are a selection of photos to show some of the other activity at Orbus recently. Further photos are available to [view online](#).



A busy few months (above). Friends visited, fields have been ploughed, signs erected, desks and beds made, boarding building prepared, buildings re-painted (PYV), playground equipment installed (PYV), maintenance carried out, buildings started and finished (VML), office furniture bought (Assenders), boarding house started, plumbing connected (J.J. Sonke), mural painted and 24 Bible verses painted on walls (courtesy of Grade 4 at St. Andrews) and gifts given to each Orbus orphan (Hoods).

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

Prayer Requests:

- Give thanks for the start of Std 8 on 18th September 2017, making Orbus a full primary school.
- For the establishment and start of the *Orbus Mission Secondary School* on 25th September 2017.
- For all donors.
- For visits from the PYV Team, Gail Van Heerden, Rev. Wilson and John and Sue Steendam.
- For Vin Lopes, Robert Boyle, Bill Medley and John Stasse, for everything they have done for Orbus.
- Pray for financial self-sustainability for the Orbus Centre.
- Please pray for the millions of children who suffer through the extreme poverty and struggles in Malawi.
- For the children attending the Orbus Centre to put their trust in Jesus.
- For the provision of the children’s material needs.
- Pray for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian - Blantyre Synod leadership: Rev. Alex Maulana, Rev. Moyenda Kanjerwa, Rev. Masauko Mbolebole, Rev. Miriam Chipeta-Banda and for Education Secretary Moses Kasitomu.
- Give thanks for the Orbus teachers, staff and volunteers in Malawi.

In Jesus,

Craig Manners

Executive Officer
Orbus Ministries Australia Inc.
craig.manners@orbusministries.org

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

