



ORBUS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2011



“Mtima wa mataya udzalemera; Wothirira madzi nayenso adzathiriridwa.” (Miyambo 11:25)

“A generous man (or woman) will prosper: he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” (Proverbs 11:25)

Gaining by Giving: At Christmas time we often hear that it is better to give than to receive. Proverbs 11:25 teaches us that giving is actually a way of receiving, and not just receiving that “feel good” emotion. If we want to really benefit and enjoy life more, and enjoy God more, then we must not selfishly hoard up our time, energy, wealth and “stuff”. To be stingy, tight and selfish is the world's way to wealth, but it is not God's way. To have, we must do; to get, we must give; to increase, we must freely scatter; to make ourselves happy, we must make others happy. Try it in 2012 and see how true this principle is.

Orbus is a Christian faith-based not-for-profit volunteer charity with the mission of caring for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The Orbus Centre in Ngumbe, Blantyre, Malawi is a partnership between the CCAP Blantyre Synod and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (Australia). We invite you to visit the Orbus website at www.orbusafrica.org, to view the [Orbus Photo Albums](#) and to visit Orbus in Malawi.

Orbus Newsletter: September to December 2011

Orbus exists for the main purpose of helping children who have lost one or both parents or who are considered vulnerable. Everything we do at Orbus should be done with this as our chief objective. The main form of this help at Ngumbe is to provide a quality, free, Christian education for these children, in a loving, caring, community environment. To achieve this, Orbus need the involvement of people in Malawi and elsewhere, who have a generous spirit and an attitude of wanting to freely give, rather than looking to receive. In this regard Proverbs 11:25 is an encouragement.

The Orbus children are aged 2-6 and mostly live in very poor communal mud brick hut settings within a 2km radius of the Orbus Centre. Some of the children have lost either one or both parents, mostly because of HIV/AIDS, and some of the children are HIV+ themselves. Some live with grandparents or uncles and aunts. Some are considered vulnerable for various reasons but mostly because of extreme poverty. Most are at risk of malaria, which kills 1 in 9 children under the age of 5 in Malawi, also pneumonia, the affects of malnutrition (e.g. stunted growth), and diarrheal illnesses due mostly to poor hygiene and lack of access to clean water.

The Orbus Nursery School and Primary School

While other Orbus activities include distribution of Chichewa language Bibles around Ngumbe and elsewhere in Blantyre; putting drinking water boreholes with manual pumps in needy areas; and general assistance to needy orphans in their communities, Orbus' central initial focus is on establishing a full primary school. Hopefully, in time, this will be followed by a secondary school and vocational training centre. Orbus currently operates a nursery school and standard 1 of a primary school. The beginning of the new primary standard 1 class, which started on September 5th has gone well, and preparations are underway to begin standard 2 in 2012.



The 1st day of the new Orbus Primary School. September 5th 2011



Since September Orbus has had volunteers and visitors from Malawi, Scotland, Australia and Israel.

“Koma wocitira wosauka cifundo amlemekeza.” (Miyambo 14:31)
"Whoever is kind to the needy honours God." (Prov.14:31)



Some of the children during the first weeks of Term 1 in September 2011

“Musadzikundikire nokha Cuma pa dziko lapansi, pamene njenjete ndi dzimbiri ziononga; ndi pamene mbala ziboola ndi kuba: koma mudzikundikire nokha cuma m’Mwamba....”(Mateyu 6:19-21)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." (Matthew 6:19-21)

The Feeding Program:

Orbus continues to prepare a vitamin and mineral enriched porridge for the children every morning during the week, ensuring the children receive a nutritious meal, assisting with their overall well-being and with their concentration during school.



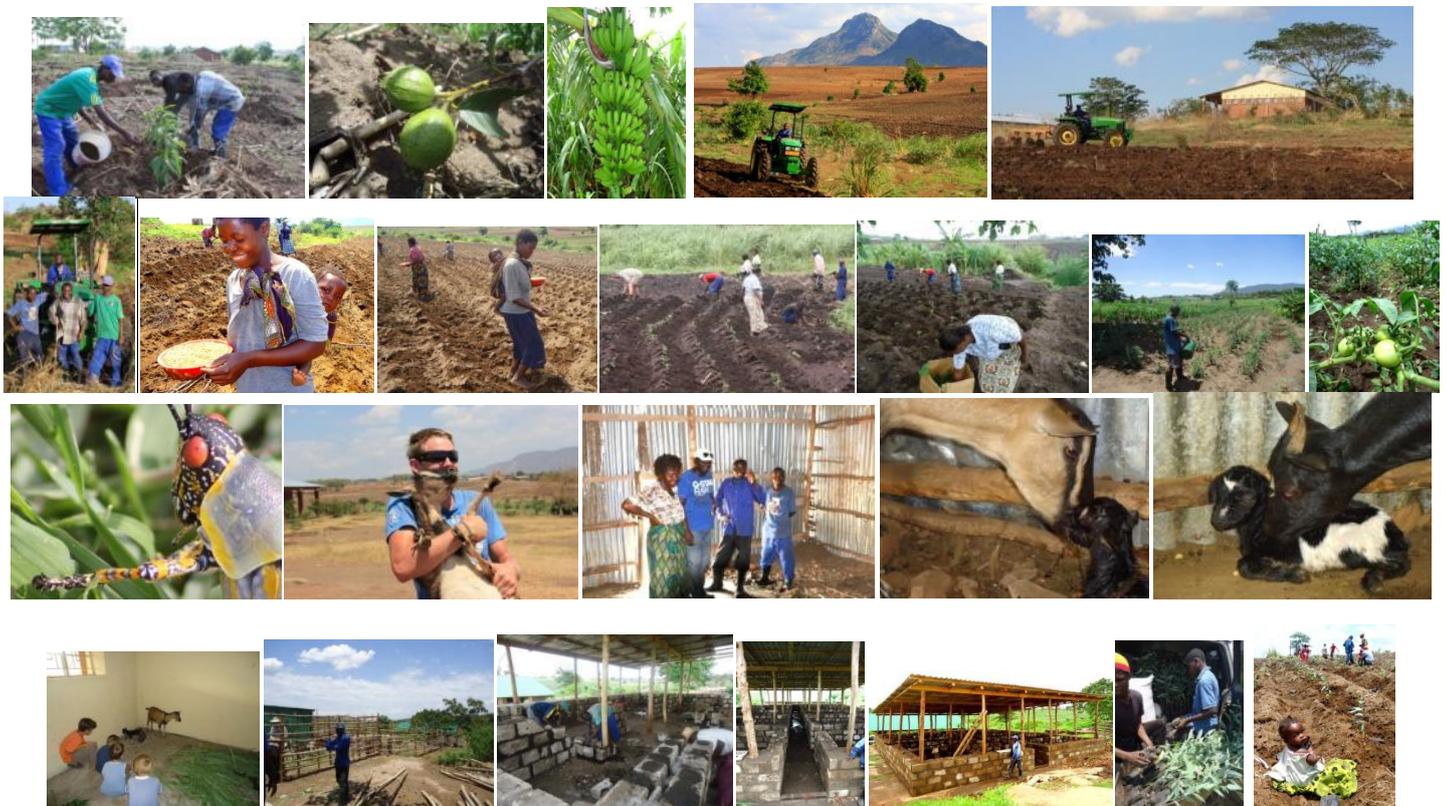
Some of the children eating their morning porridge and with Adrienne from Israel.

The Orbus Farm and Agricultural Income Producing Initiatives:

In December Orbus had approx 2,500kg of maize remaining from the 2011 harvest. Agricultural activity has been increased recently, as one challenge in 2012 is to make optimal use of the 6 hectare property to generate income to enable Orbus to operate and grow. To achieve its goals Orbus needs to set the foundations of its income-generating activities so that funds are not only generated but both collected and put to use with integrity (honesty), in an accountable and efficient manner, to ensure that the aim of helping OVC is achieved.

Fruit Trees: Orbus have produced paw-paw in the last few months, and the first guava have appeared, as have the first bunches of bananas from the new trees planted along the river. **Crops:** Land was ploughed and ridged in November and approx 2 acres of soya beans, 2 acres of pigeon peas, 5 acres of maize and approx 800 tomato seedlings were planted in late November. Unfortunately there have been some nasty grasshoppers around and we lost most of the 1st soya bean and pigeon pea crops. It is hoped the grasshoppers will disappear with the rains, which have been very late this season. Both crops of soya beans and pigeon peas have been partly replanted with the risk of losing them a second time if the rain does not become more regular. We have planted more maize among these crops too. **Sugar Cane:** Orbus have a large area of sugar cane along the Ngumbe River, which was expanded with new plantings in 2011. **Blue gums:** 500 blue gum trees were planted in early December. **Plus:** Cucumbers, watermelons, and a trial of sunflowers were also planted in December. **Goats:** The goat breeding project saw our first baby goat born on 15th November followed by a second on the 18th. The number of goats is 10 females, 2 males and now the 2 babies (both females). The goat enclosure was expanded in November. **Pigs:** A new pig breeding project is to be embarked upon in 2012. In preparation for this a pig's shed is currently being constructed using old bricks, rubble and tin already on site.

“Khulupirira Yehova, ndipo cita cokoma; Khala m’dziko, ndipo tsata coonadi.” (“Masalmo” 37:3)
 “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security.” (Psalm 37:3)



Some of the Orbus Farm activity during September to December 2011

Care for Others While You Can:

“I may care about myself till I grow morbid; I may watch over my own feelings till I feel nothing; and I may lament my own weakness till I grow almost too weak to lament. It will be far more profitable for me to become unselfish and out of love to my Lord Jesus begin to care for the souls of those around me. My tank is getting very low; no fresh rain comes to fill it; what shall I do? I will pull up the plug and let its contents run out to water the withering plants around me. What do I see? My cistern seems to fill as it flows. A secret spring is at work. While all was stagnant, the fresh spring was sealed; but as my stock flows out to water others the Lord thinketh upon me. Hallelujah!” (Miyambo 11:25; Proverbs 11:25) C.H. Spurgeon

News Roundup:

A small plot of the Orbus land has been set aside on a short-term trial basis, and seeds provided, for parents and guardians of children attending Orbus to grow food for their family's consumption. In September Orbus was able to replace a pump on a borehole in Chilaweni Village, and in November completed a new borehole and pump in Malunga B village. A second well has been started on the Orbus site. Intermittent orphan care in the community continued. An HIV/AIDS testing clinic was conducted at Orbus in December by DAPP. The group known as the "Orbus HIV/AIDS Group" was disbanded for various reasons in August. Adrienne, a teacher from Israel helped out during the hectic start to Term 1. Matt, from Tasmania stayed on until late-September and was a great help and encouragement. We had a brief visit by Derek from Queensland, and long-time Orbus supporter Robert Boyle visited from Australia in November for a very productive and encouraging two weeks. The children performed a Nativity play and sang songs on the last day of school in December and received a small gift each from Orbus as well as a lovingly made hand or finger puppet each from the children at the Inverleigh Presbyterian Church in Victoria. School re-starts on January 9th for Term 2.



Some of the Orbus activity between September and December 2011



Orbus have four generous women who volunteer their time at no cost to teach in the Nursery School: Zulu, Faris, Esme and Triphonia.

**“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:31-33)**

General News: Malawi is still experiencing economic problems. The past six months have seen persistent shortages of forex, fuel and some medicines. Thankfully, after the loss of 20 lives during the unrest in July 2011, things have been relatively peaceful around the country. The cost of living is increasing at a time when the economy has slowed down quite dramatically. Petrol increased by 35% to 380MK per litre (A\$2.30) in November, and the price of maize increased by 50% to 60MK per kg in December. The rains, due in November are very late.

Prayer Requests for:

- God's gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ for each of the children attending the Orbus Centre.
- A spiritual awakening in Ngumbe and the salvation of souls in the wider area around the Orbus Centre, and Malawi.
- The children as we enter into the peak season for malaria.
- The smooth expansion of the Primary School.
- The neediest of the children in the area to come to the Nursery School and Standard 1 classes.
- All Orbus staff and volunteers to have a deeper and growing love for OVC, the poor and neediest in the community.
- Good rains; healthy crops and successful farming initiatives generating income over the next few months.
- For integrity in income collection from Orbus enterprises and wisdom in spending the income generated.
- More local and foreign visitors and volunteers to come to the Orbus Centre.
- Peace in Malawi.

Thankyou for your support and interest in Orbus,

In Jesus Name,

Craig Manners

