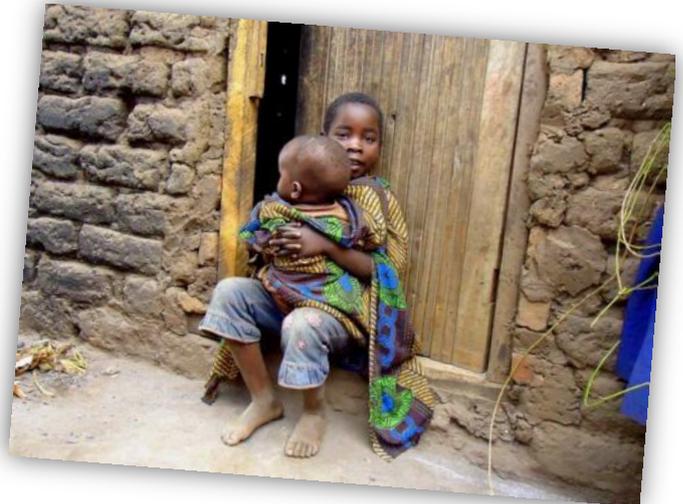




# ORBUS NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO AUGUST 2011



*In God the orphan finds compassion. (Hosea 14:3)*

Unlike those with money or connections the weak, the poor, the fatherless and widows do not have the resources to help or defend themselves. "When a child is left without its natural protector, our God steps in and becomes his guardian: so also when a man (or woman) has lost every object of dependence, he may cast himself upon the living God and find in Him all that he needs. Orphans are cast upon the fatherhood of God, and He provides for them. No trust is so well warranted by facts, or so sure to be rewarded by results, as trust in the invisible but ever-living God. Better have God and no other friend than all the patrons on the earth and no God. To be bereaved of the creature is painful, but so long as the Lord remains the fountain of mercy to us, we are not truly orphaned." Charles Spurgeon.

Orbus is a Christian faith-based not-for-profit volunteer charity with the mission of caring for orphans and vulnerable children. 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](http://www.orbusafrica.org), to view the [Orbus Photo Albums](#) and to visit Orbus in Malawi.

**"Put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?" Ps 56:8**

It is with much sadness that we report the death of one of the children from the Orbus Nursery School. A little girl named Delicious (she was featured in the "Orbus Files" in Orbus' March Newsletter), who was HIV+ died on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 reportedly from a skin disease, possibly cancer. The funeral was held at her home near the Orbus Centre, where she lived in extreme poverty with her uncle and aunt and four cousins. Her mother was also HIV+ and died in late 2009. Her father lives in Blantyre.

We thank God for the privilege of knowing this little girl at the Orbus Centre and pray that He might use this tragic loss to bring people to Jesus. The reality of earthly death is never far away. We usually cannot see it coming but it comes. There is only one hope: Jesus Christ, the one who has defeated death for those who have put their trust in Him and received the gift of eternal life. Have you put your trust in Him? Have you received this gift?

At the funeral, sitting around the dusty courtyard of the compound of old mud brick huts where Delicious lived, with her little body inside her room, listening to the women's alternating crying and then singing of joyous hymns of praise to Jesus, I was so thankful that we have a Saviour like Jesus. Without Him there is just the crying.



Delicious (Left) and with her sister Nissi at the Orbus Centre in February 2011.

**Orbus Update: April to August 2011**

The Orbus Centre has been operating well since the beginning of its main programs in 2010. The Centre was officially opened on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 and it is clear that in its inaugural year of operation God has used the Centre to minister to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in the catchment area and to generally make a positive contribution to this community. The management, staff and community volunteers have looked after the Centre very well.



**Visiting OVC:**

Orbus has recently been identifying and visiting a few needy OVC in the Ngumbe catchment area and beyond, delivering gifts such as Chichewa language Bibles, mosquito nets, food, blankets, clothing, soaps, candles, matches, cooking oil, vitamin A and iron enriched Ufa flour, toiletries, medicines and of course treats such as lollies and biscuits for the children and in some cases boxes of chocolates from Australia for the parent/grandparent/guardian.



**OVC Feeding Program:**

Orbus feed children a vitamin and minerals enriched porridge meal every morning Monday to Friday at the Centre. The program is aimed at providing a nutritious daily meal for the children. Generous volunteers cook, serve and clean up every day. The children have also recently enjoyed paw paw grown on site and two Braai/BBQ's at the new "Augustine Well and Gardens" to provide some meat (goat), something most of them never have in their diet due to cost.



*"You are the helper of the fatherless." (Psalm 10:14)*



*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:9-10).*

### Orbus Site Developments:

#### Renovation of the Kitchen and Guard House and surrounds:



#### Renovation of the John Calvin Building:

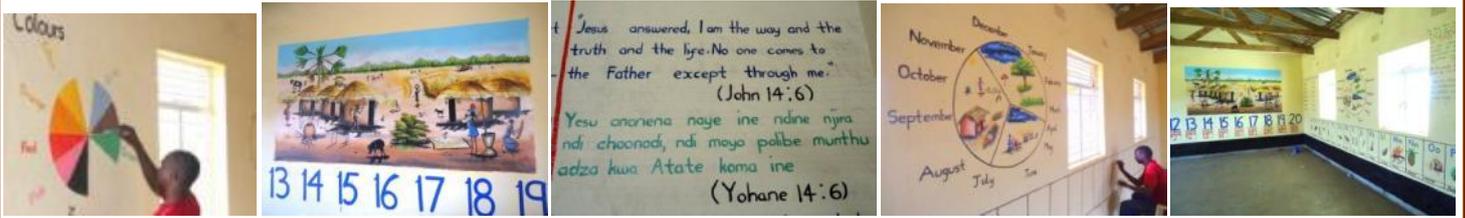
*“God takes peculiar care of the poor (Ex 22:23, Deut 15:9 and 24:15), though they are commonly despised. He does not allow oppression inflicted on them to pass unpunished. From this consideration, the poor and weak ought to derive consolation and more calmly endure distresses and afflictions, because they learn that God takes care of them and will not permit injustice done to them to go unpunished.” (John Calvin)*

*“A building with such a name cannot be allowed to remain in such a state.” (Concerned Calvinist). That said, the John Calvin Building was renovated by Orbus' local builder Lamech and his men in June. The building was an old tobacco kiln with no windows and in poor condition. Now each of the three lockable rooms has windows and have been freshly painted, as has the verandah. Drains have been built and the brickwork repaired and sealed. The Orbus farm-workers, David, Benson and Felix use one of the rooms, the HIV/AIDS Group have one room which is to be shared with the Craft and Fellowship Group and future community groups and programs such as the Adult Literacy Classes starting in early September. The third room is to be used for future vocational training.*



### Happy Classroom Project, School Desks and Playground:

During the July/August school holidays Orbus has been busy with site improvements in readiness for the start of Term 1. The Nursery classroom has been given a makeover with some educational material being painted on the walls by BoNGO; desks and stools are being made on site by local carpenters for Standard 1 and a playground area prepared.



Classroom walls and desks being made on site.



Above: The playground is ready for Term 1.

### Goat Breeding Program:

The goat enclosure (below) was built in July and is now ready to house our first goats. We hope that goat breeding will assist Orbus to become financially independent along with expanded farming activities and other potential new enterprises.



Lamech and John Steendam with the goat enclosure.

*"Blessed is he that considers the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." (Psalm 41:1)*

"Many give their money to the poor in a hurry, without thought; and many more give nothing at all. This precious promise belongs to those who "consider" the poor, look into their case, devise plans for their benefit, and considerably carry them out. We can do more by care than by cash, and most with two together." Spurgeon.

### The Augustine Well and Gardens Project:

The well and pump completed last October have proved a valuable contribution to the area. In an endeavour to provide an attractive, relaxing area for the community to come, collect water, cook some food and rest in the shade as a respite from their daily grind, Orbus have developed the "Augustine Well and Gardens" which has a table, seating and a Braai (BBQ).



Before (Sept 2010)



During



During



After (and photos below)



The Augustine Well and Gardens

*"Mapembedzedwe oyer a ndi osadetsa pamaso pa Mulungu ndi Atate ndiwo: kuceza ndi ana amasiye ndi akazi amasiye m'cisautso cao, ndi kudzisungira mwini wosacitidwa mawanga ndi dziko lapansi."*  
(James 1:27)



Left: David, Blessings, Ellen, Rhoda and Flossy. Centre: Blessings Flossy, Simon (Literacy Class teacher) and Rhoda. Right: Orbus' guards James, John and Mjojo with Orbus' farmers Benson, David and Felix.

### Volunteer Visitors to the Orbus Centre:

Orbus enjoyed and benefited from visits by Australian friends John and Sue Steendam in June/July and Matthew Griggs from St. John's in Hobart in August/September. Shorter visits were made to the project by the Centre's Australian Trustee John Wilson and his son Carey and the Taylor family from Scotland. We are looking forward to a new volunteer teacher, Adrienne, coming from Israel for the month of September.

*"When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."*  
(Deuteronomy 24:19)

### Request for Volunteer Help:

Orbus are at a stage of development where more volunteers are needed to assist with the project. Orbus is seeking assistance from Christian volunteers to fulfil the following unpaid volunteer roles either short-term or longer term:

- 1- Nurse/Nutritionist.
- 2- Teacher/s.
- 3- Teacher Trainers.
- 4- Vocational skills trainers.
- 5- Builder/s.
- 6- Short-term visitors – People visiting, doing odd jobs around the site and just spending time with the children, staff and volunteers is a great encouragement. No particular skills are required, just a desire and willingness to come and help.
- 7- Facebook page manager in Australia.

### General News:

This beautiful portrait (below) was created by award winning US based portrait artist Nanybel ([www.nanybel.com](http://www.nanybel.com)) from a photo she came across on the Orbus website taken in Malawi by Orbus supporter Robert Boyle. The portrait is being exhibited in the US from 6th to 28th August 2011 and Nanybel has instructed the gallery that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this piece will be donated to Orbus.



Malawi is currently experiencing political, economic and social problems which are causing much anxiety among this impoverished people. On July 20 and 21 riots spread across Malawi, 18 people were killed and property was destroyed, including this shop near the Orbus site (above). This fear adds to the already hard life of the poor in Malawi.

Bible distribution. If anyone would like to help fund the distribution of Chichewa language Bibles around the Ngumbe area, or Blantyre/Malawi generally please let me know. The cost is Approx US\$8.50 per hardback Bible.

### *"Remember the poor." Galatians 2:10*

"Why does God allow so many of His children to be poor? He could make them all rich if He pleased; He could lay bags of gold at their doors; He could send them a large annual income; or He could scatter round their houses abundance of provisions, as once he made the quails lie in heaps round the camp of Israel, and rained bread out of heaven to feed them. There is no necessity that they should be poor, except that He sees it to be best. "The cattle upon a thousand hills are His"-He could supply them; He could make the richest, the greatest, and the mightiest bring all their power and riches to the feet of His children, for the hearts of all men are in His control. But He does not choose to do so; He allows them to suffer want, He allows them to pine in penury and obscurity. Why is this? There are many reasons: one is, to give us, who are favoured with enough, an opportunity of showing our love to Jesus. We show our love to Christ when we sing of Him and when we pray to Him; but if there were no sons of need in the world we should lose the sweet privilege of evidencing our love, by ministering in alms-giving to His poorer brethren; He has ordained that thus we should prove that our love standeth not in word only, but in deed and in truth.

If we truly love Christ, we shall care for those who are loved by Him. Those who are dear to Him will be dear to us. Let us then look upon it not as a duty but as a privilege to relieve the poor of the Lord's flock-remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Surely this assurance is sweet enough, and this motive strong enough to lead us to help others with a willing hand and a loving heart-recollecting that all we do for His people is graciously accepted by Christ as done to Himself." Spurgeon.

### Prayer Requests:

- For God's gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ for each of the children attending the Orbus Centre.
- For the salvation of souls in the wider area especially in Ngumbe, Kameza, Nansengwe and Malunga, Mulenga and Daniel Villages.
- For the new school year to go well.
- For the neediest of the children in the area to come to the Centre.
- All Orbus staff and volunteers to have a deeper and growing love for OVC, the poor and the neediest in the community and to be selfless and generous.
- More local and foreign volunteers to come to the Orbus Centre.
- Peace in Malawi after recent political unrest which resulted in the deaths of 18 people.

In Jesus Name,

*Craig Manners*

