



ORBUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA Inc.
Newsletter – August 2021



Secondary School Assembly July 2021

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.” (Romans 12:10)



Orbus students with Primary Head Teacher Wills Mbewe at a special service at the nearby CCAP Nansengwe church.

Orbus News Update – August 2021:

Malawi COVID-19 Update: As of August 31, 2021, Malawi has reported 60,386 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 47,640 recoveries, 2,168 deaths and 10,578 active cases. COVID-19 data can be found at covid19.health.gov.mw

Orbus Mission Centre Update:

Financial self-sustainability: We thank God for the major achievement, over the past year, of financial self-sufficiency of the Orbus Mission Centre in Malawi. The income generated from the Centre has for the most part of the last year been sufficient to cover all the expenses of running the nursery class, primary school, secondary school, boarding house, and farm without any financial assistance needed from Orbus Australia. This has even been during a trying time due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With God anything is possible. That was the belief in 2007 when Orbus was launched, and in 2010 when the Orbus kindy was started, in 2011 when the Orbus primary school was started, and again in 2017 when the Orbus secondary school was established. Despite our weaknesses, failures, limitations, stresses and strains, and the lack of resources, God just did it anyway! To God be the glory!

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (2 Cor. 12:9)

We are very thankful for all our Malawian friends whom God has used to make this a reality. Without their involvement, their faith in God, as well as faith in the reality that dependence on foreign support is not necessary for successful development of new initiatives like this in Malawi, this would not have happened.

There are too many to mention them all by name, however the early efforts of the first volunteers, staff and management team, and then of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian – Blantyre Synod, which entered a partnership agreement with Orbus Australia and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 2011 to oversee and develop the project, are worth a special mention. Orbus has worked with three Synod General Secretaries and two Secretaries of the Education Office since 2011 and we are very thankful to God for them and their continued friendship and support of Orbus.

The Australian involvement in the establishment of Orbus in Malawi has been all about getting to know and working closely with many Malawian friends who God used to make it all happen. Again, there are too many to mention by name, but they and God know who they are. I pray that our friendships may continue, that old ones be rekindled, and they all grow over future years.

While we rejoice and praise God at this significant milestone for Orbus, even though there is no regular dependence on foreign donor funds, there remains many things to continue to develop at the Centre. Orbus Australia therefore intend to continue its involvement and with God's help to do what we can to gradually contribute toward this advancement over time.

First Secondary Graduates: The first student intake at the secondary school, who enrolled in September 2017, have become the first cohort to have advanced through Forms 1 to 4 and achieve graduation this year. We praise God for them and ask His blessing upon their future.

Future needs and goals. Areas to still develop include:

- *Buildings:* More buildings for classrooms, boarding accommodation and teacher's accommodation, a dining hall and kitchen.
- *School facilities/resources:* A better science laboratory, a computer room, library, more desks and furniture, more school resources.
- *Trades Centre:* The longer-term dream has always been to establish a trade skills development centre at Orbus.
- *Chapel/Hall:* Rev. Owen Chiwere reports that there are now 86 congregants at Orbus and that they are finding it increasingly difficult to meet in a classroom. He has suggested it is time to build a chapel.

Your prayers for these goals would be greatly cherished.



Form 1 of the new Orbus Mission Secondary School. 29th September 2017

*“And the Lord said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’
(Judges 7:2)*



Rev. Owen Chiwere and the CCAP Orbus Prayer House Elders Lameck, Farm Manager and Building Foreman



Felix, one of the first staff members at Orbus at home with his wife and daughters.



Flashbacks: Primary school above in 2015 and Wills, Lameck, Kevin, Moses and John, below.



Prayer:

- Praise God for the sustained financial self-reliance of the Orbus schools over the past year.
- That future goals will be met, especially the need for new buildings, desks, and school resources.
- Pray for the development of a trade skills development centre.
- For God's blessing on the first graduates from the secondary school.
- 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 schools.
- For the leadership of the Orbus schools, the CCAP Blantyre Synod, and Orbus Australia.
- Continue to pray for Malawi in general during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Jesus Name,

Craig Manners

CEO

Orbus Ministries Australia Inc.

craig.manners@orbusministries.org

“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.”
(Romans 16:25-27)



Web: www.OrbusMinistries.org Email: admin@orbusministries.org