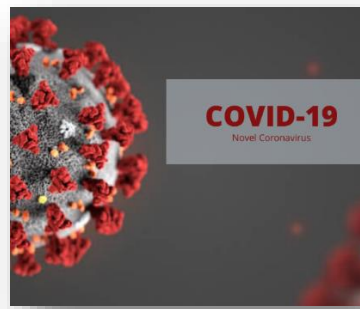
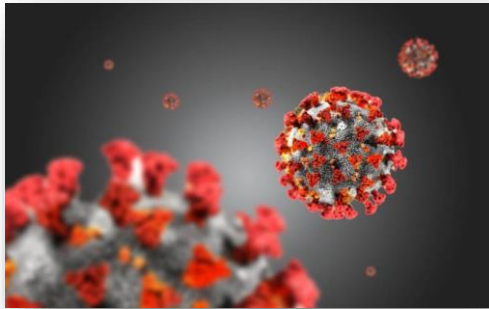




ORBUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

Newsletter – June 2020



Orbus News Update – June 2020:

The CCAP Orbus Mission Primary and Secondary Schools have been closed since 23rd March due to COVID-19, and it does not look likely they will re-open before early September 2020. The closure was in line with Government policy to close all schools in Malawi to contain the spread of the virus. As a result of the closure, there is no teaching or learning activity at Orbus and no income to the school. There is limited welfare system (no JobKeeper or JobSeeker) in Malawi and a limited health care system. The potential for a major national health and economic crisis unfolding in coming months would seem high. Your prayers are therefore requested on a regular basis, especially for the poor and the elderly.

From the CCAP Blantyre Synod Education Office: “Coronavirus has really affected us. All schools were closed on 23rd March. By then our students were sitting for end of second term examinations. We are not sure as to when schools will reopen. This is devastating as far as teaching and learning is concerned. Ministry of Education has introduced on-line teaching, however In Malawi most people are poor and/or computer illiterate. The Ministry of Education hopes to introduce radio and TV lessons to keep the learners busy and active academically. However, the IT approaches somehow are not practically beneficial for the poor”.

“Early closure of the schools has also affected school fees collection and school finance. The uncertainty over when schools open worsens the matter. If schools do not open by June 1, 2020 Orbus will have no money for salary contribution. This is how COVID-19 has affected Orbus. Besides, payment of tax and pension has also been suspended for salaries to be enough. This means after the school opens Orbus shall need more money for tax and pension.”

“The government through the ministry of health is trying its best to curb the situation. Of late there has been a lot of sensitization campaigns educating people on precautionary measures to minimize the spread of the virus. Lockdown is one of them. Many people are working from home. Social, political and religious gatherings have been suspended to monitor the situation”.

There is hope. Jesus Christ has defeated death (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). Of Himself Jesus says: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die”. (John 11:25-26).

By the end of June 2020, the virus had been recorded as having begun to spread through all districts of Malawi with approximately 1,800 cases and 19 deaths. It is now unlikely that the Orbus primary and secondary schools will reopen before the start of Term 1 in early September 2020. Orbus Australia has committed to maintain its level of regular monthly contributions and are seeking other avenues to assist where possible, in particular, through continuing accommodation building work during July and August to help the local economy in a small and additional way. Supporters are welcome and encouraged to contribute if so inclined through the [donations page](#) on the website.



Also, in other Orbus news, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) - Blantyre Synod have recently transferred the Minister of the Orbus Prayer House, Rev. Lyton Kilowe from Nansengwe to Ndirande. We were greatly blessed to have Rev. Kilowe involved with Orbus. Lyton, photographed above with some of the members of the congregation at Orbus, was integral in founding the church plant in December 2016, and was a blessing to the students, teachers, and staff as he regularly visited Orbus to conduct chapel. He has become a good friend to Orbus and will be greatly missed. We look forward to staying connected with him and also to meeting and getting to know his replacement in time.

Salvation and eternal life can only be found in Christ Jesus, "for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Prayer Requests:

- For Malawi in general during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the poor, OVC, elderly and sick.
- For the provision of the children's', teachers' and staff's material needs during the school closure.
- For the planned accommodation building work at Orbus during July and August.
- Wisdom for the leadership of the Orbus school, for Orbus Australia and the CCAP Blantyre Synod.
- For many to seek and find salvation during this time of crisis.

In Jesus Name,

Craig Manners

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

*Of His people Jesus said: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish".
(John 10:28).*



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