



ORBUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

Newsletter – October 2020

Back to School!



“So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9).

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

Orbus News Update – October 2020:

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the CCAP Orbus Mission Primary and Secondary Schools were closed on 23rd March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in line with government directives regarding all Malawian schools.

Now we are pleased to inform you that most schools in Malawi have re-opened with a staggered return of year levels. At the Orbus school Standard 8 returned on Monday, 7th September 2020, in order to sit their national government examinations.

By the 12th October, all classes were operating. There are 530 students as follows: Nursery (15); Primary: Standards 1 to 8 (353); and Secondary: Form 1 (63), Form 2 (71) and Form 3 (28). There are 26 teachers and staff in total. There has been a large increase in the number of secondary boarding students with the number of boarders now at 105 as of 19th October.

Rev. Paul Owen Chiwere has been appointed as the new minister of the nearby Nansengwe CCAP congregation which includes the Chilaweni and Orbus congregations. Rev. Chiwere engages with the Orbus school community conducting regular devotions and Sunday services.

We thank God that to date, the spread of COVID-19 has not been as serious as it could have been in Malawi, which is certainly cause for praise in answer to prayer.

Some COVID-19 related news items:

- <https://www.mwnation.com/covid-19-cases-decline-puzzles-epidemiologists/>
- <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/world/the-times/coronavirus-survival-rate-for-continent-defies-the-doomsayers/news-story/78f64786b429c6539b649bd9dcd5895c>

We also give thanks for some Australian donors whose generosity allowed Orbus Australia to fund the majority of teachers and staff wages in Malawi during the closure, as well as to fund the costs of PPE such as face masks, hand sanitizer, soap, disinfectant and gloves as required to meet the government criteria for the re-opening of the school, as well as school resources for the start of the new school year.

School income ceased during the closure and surplus funds in Malawi were soon exhausted. Additionally, during the closure there was a break-in at Orbus and items including mattresses, cisterns and other items were stolen. Our donors have meant that we could not only ensure that teachers and staff did not go without during the crisis, but also have enabled the sending of funds to restore things to allow a restart.

It was in the end decided not to spend a large amount of money on the building works during the closure in case funds were needed to continue to pay wages in the event of a prolonged closure.

The farm has continued with activities including goats, chickens, fruit trees, vegetables, and maize.

Sincere gratitude for your prayer and financial support during the crisis has been communicated from Malawi to Orbus Ministries Australia and its supporters and is hereby sincerely passed on to you.

Challenges:

While we give thanks to God for the schools reopening and for the increased student and teacher numbers, we have been made aware of some challenges. We share some of these needs as follows:

- Science laboratory and equipment is required.
- The solar water system and septic tank need some repairs.
- There is a need for new classrooms, a new toilet block, and more teacher accommodation.
- There is a need for 50 new desks.

Prayer:

- That the challenges and needs will be met.
- Continue to pray for Malawi in general during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the poor, OVC, elderly, and sick.
- For the provision of the children's material needs.
- For the smooth operation of the school.
- For the goal of self-sustainability to be achieved.
- Wisdom for the leadership of the Orbus school, for Orbus Australia, and the CCAP Blantyre Synod.

In Jesus Name,

Craig Manners

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

*“Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.” (Isaiah 55:6)*



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