

# update

## What a difference a YEAR MAKES!

### 2008 Ministry Highlights

**W**ith humble joy and awe in our amazing God, we are celebrating all the Lord has done this past year through Kerus. We have the privilege of partnering with amazing organizations and churches that are reaching new areas and touching more lives. Together, we are helping millions to receive life-saving messages. Churches, teachers, leaders and children are finding courage and hope, and they are positively influencing their communities.

**Orphan Care Center >>** What a joy it has been to work with so many of you who are interested in taking care of a special group of children in Soshanguve, South Africa. Through your generosity, we have completed the construction of the “Kerus House of Encouragement.” We have been feeding the children since late June. When they start their new school year in January, the children will have a comfortable and safe place to eat, to study, and to play. To learn more about the center, visit our website at [www.kerusglobal.org](http://www.kerusglobal.org).

**Angola National *It Takes Courage!* Trainers >>** It is with great pride for our Angolan colleagues that we report the certification of 16 nationals in

2008 to serve our partner organizations, RISE International and Willow Creek. These colleagues will teach the *ITC!* 4-day conferences for the RISE project. In October, they led their first two training events! RISE expects to reach over 45,000 youth in the next two years.

**Kerus Radio Project >>** Our partner agency, Trans World Radio, will complete two new productions of Magogo’s Village, our 32- program family drama series, that teaches the key concepts of the youth curriculum. These productions are in African English and in kiSwahili, and will open up ministry opportunities in English speaking schools throughout Africa and the communities of Kenya and Tanzania. The radio program continues to air with great success in the nation of Mozambique, in the Xitshwa language.

**Willow Creek Association in South Africa >>** In May, the Kerus team conducted the third *It Takes Courage!* Youth Curriculum Training Conference in South Africa. We have trained 300 pastors and youth pastors who have reached over 9,000 youth through their churches. ✨

“We worry about what a child will  
become tomorrow, yet we forget that  
he is someone today.”

– STACIA TAUSCHER

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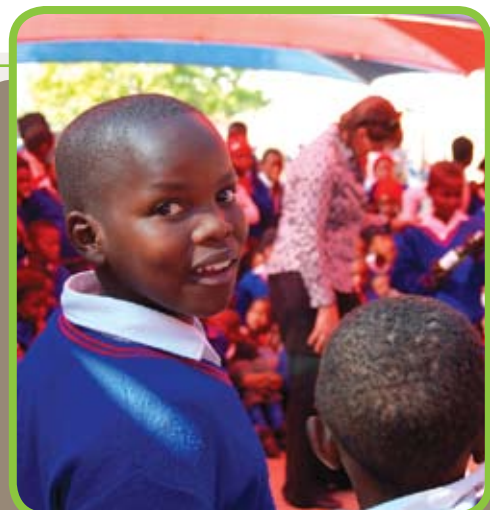
JENNIE



MARCIA

We are excited to introduce you to two new members of our Kerus Team. Jana Strite is a recent graduate of Gordon College, coming to us in May, with a degree in communications and special course work in video production. Jana has produced some wonderful videos that have allowed many of you to see our ministry in a deeper light. Susan Carson, of Last Word Communications, has worked with Kerus on numerous educational projects. Susan will join Kerus in a part-time position, beginning in 2009. She is a seasoned curriculum writer who has worked in the educational publishing industry for over 20 years. We are excited to have these dynamic women on the Kerus Team as we move into 2009. It is a step of faith to expand our team, but expansion is critical to meeting the demands of our work. We are so grateful for your partnership and look forward with great anticipation to 2009! We pray you have a blessed and joyous Christmas, and an amazing New Year!

Jennie Marcia



Soshanguve >> A big smile tells the story of the young lives being changed through the Kerus Orphan Care Center.

# “Judging” KERUS!

*Reflections from a  
Kerus Faculty Member*



by Dr. Jim Judge

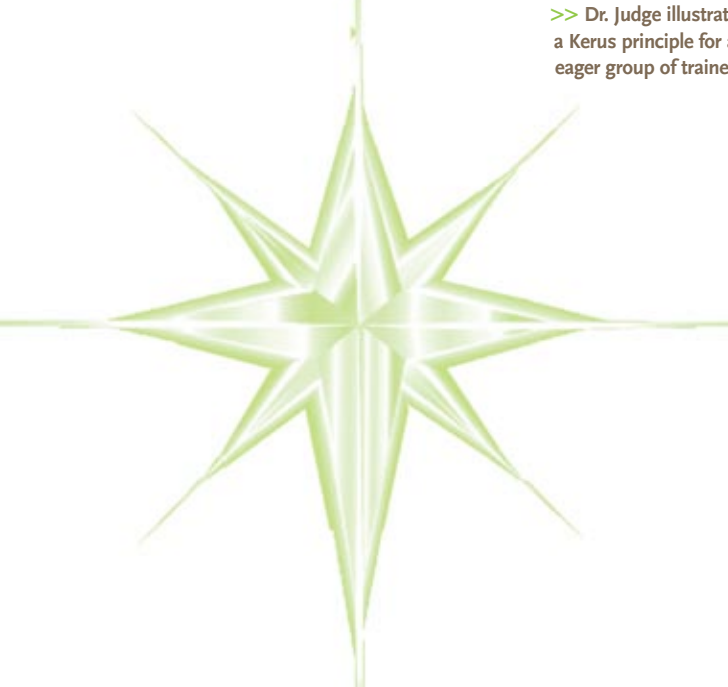
I treated my first AIDS patient 25 years ago. I just didn't know it at the time. It was 1983 and I was filling in for a missionary physician at a hospital in Kenya. We saw several patients who had a mysterious new problem the locals called “Slim Disease.” Those who had it seemed to just slowly waste away. At that time AIDS had just recently been described in medical journals, and the disease was not known to have any connection to Africa. In the years that followed, I watched this disease invade and wreak havoc in every country and people group on the planet. And as I watched, I had a growing conviction that I had to be involved. I knew I could not simply watch from the side lines. I knew I had to be part of something that was making a difference. I had to be in the battle.

Twelve years ago I was introduced to Drs. Jennie Cerullo and Marcia Ball, and their strategy of training teachers and pastors in a cohesive character-based HIV/AIDS education curriculum. The *It Takes Courage!* curriculum did more than simply educate young people about AIDS. It gave them the practical tools they needed to make life choices that would protect them from the ravages of this disease. I have been hooked ever since. I became a faculty member on their team, and since then have taught their material (*Life at the CrossRoads* and *It Takes Courage!*) everywhere from Eastern Europe to Asia to Africa. For me, Kerus is the sweet spot where my gifts of teaching and cross-cultural communication meet one of the greatest

public health concerns the world has ever seen, all within the context of the Christian message.

Most of us who are teachers are, in one way or another, addicts; and what we are addicted to is meaning. We need to fall asleep each night with the knowledge that we have made a difference. At the start of any typical training, I look out at a sea of teacher's faces all with cautious expressions. They are cautious with good reason. They have been to AIDS seminars before and not much has changed. During the four days of training, I watch as the mood moves slowly from caution to hope to excitement. At the end of the training, it is as if new life has been breathed into them.

>> Dr. Judge illustrates a Kerus principle for an eager group of trainees.





Mozambique >> A village of excited children after an *It Takes Courage!* training.

This all comes, of course, at a cost. I spend one month every year away from family. Strange places, strange food, and often accommodations that are less than four-star. Why is it worth it? Once, as a young medical student, I heard a missionary physician speak about the high personal price she had paid over her years of service in Africa. She said that, when people asked her about the cost of it all, she simply replied, "The cost is swallowed up in privilege." That expresses my own heart when it comes to Kerus. I remain, ten years later, overwhelmed by the privilege. ✿



>> Jennie and Dr. Judge rejoice with a proud Angolan participant as he completes his training.



>> A curious youngster gets a glimpse of what he will look like to the Kerus family back in America.

## The Example of a CHILD

When I think of Christmas, I think of two things: Jesus and children. They are, to me, the joy and wonder that is Christmas. Picture the eyes of a child drinking in the sights and smells – joyous over small things like gingerbread houses, candy canes, Christmas pageants, stockings, and snow, and full of anticipation for the presents they know are coming. The Father delights in a child's heart full of dependence and wonderment...seeking wholeheartedly the object of its affection, whether it's the latest video game or doll...fully dependent on the care of parents. Jesus desires this heart above all others, dependent and expectant. This Christmas, may we learn from the little ones around us. Ask Jesus again for the heart of a child. Climb in his lap and spend whole-hearted time with him.

*Marcia*



*I knew I had to be part of something  
that was **making a difference.***

*I had to be in the battle.*

- DR. JIM JUDGE

Give a gift of hope with  
**Kerus CareWear**

Show you  
**CARE**  
by what you  
**WEAR**



The gift of an *It Takes Courage!* or *Courage to Care* t-shirt helps educate children in the township of Soshanguve, South Africa. The new Kerus orphan care center, located in Soshanguve, provides nutrition, medical care, counseling, and training using the *It Takes Courage!* curriculum to 100 children, 365 days a year. Proceeds from the sale of each shirt allow caring adults of faith to lead children through the *It Takes Courage!* program. Children build the character, courage, and life skills they need to survive and thrive in the face of the challenges they encounter each day.

These high quality American Apparel t-shirts convey the Kerus message of courage. When you wear a Kerus shirt or give one as a gift, you share this message of hope. You show you have the *Courage to Care*. And you look good, too!

Visit the Kerus Store at [www.kerusglobal.org](http://www.kerusglobal.org) to order. Unisex and women's designs are \$15 each. Ladies, note that women's shirts run small. 🌱

Visit the Kerus website to learn more about the new orphan care center.



Give a Shirt >> Change a Life!

## What's Next?

**Kerus Radio Project Field Strategy** >> Working with Trans World Radio and other ministry partners, we will create a field strategy that will mobilize hundreds of churches to facilitate small group discussions of the radio drama program and explore the spiritual concepts raised in each drama. These groups will be mobilized by organizations whose primary aim is to equip and empower local churches in HIV/AIDS prevention and care efforts.

**Soshanguve Project** >> Soshanguve, South Africa is the location of our orphan care center. We will continue to develop the health, spiritual, and educational programs for the orphans and their families. We will also launch a broader educational initiative to train over 100 pastors, teachers, and orphan care center workers to teach the *It Takes Courage!* Youth Curriculum to youth throughout the area. Our goal is to reach 8,000 youth with the life saving messages of the curriculum.

**It Takes Courage! For Oral Learners** >> We will adapt our *It Takes Courage!* curriculum for groups with limited literacy skills and/or limited formal education. We will form partnerships with key organizations that target those who do not yet have access to life-saving information delivered in ways they can understand. We will seek ways to partner with and enhance ministries that bring the Gospel to people groups that speak lesser known languages and have limited educational opportunities.

## Giving a Gift to Kerus

Kerus is a ministry of the International Foundation, in Washington D.C. If you are interested in supporting Kerus through a one-time or on-going donation, the information below should be of assistance.

### Checks

Make out to: **International Foundation/Kerus – 860000**

Mail to either: **Kerus**, 245 Newman Ave Suite B, Harrisonburg, VA 22801,  
or **International Foundation**, P.O. Box 23813, Washington D.C., 20026-3813

### Monthly Withdrawal / Stock Gift

We are able to set up a monthly withdrawal from your checking account. There are also systems in place for those who would like to make a stock gift.

Unfortunately, the International Foundation is not set up to receive credit card gifts, thus there is no opportunity to make an on-line donation. Your receipt will come from the International Foundation, and 100% of your gift will go directly into the Kerus account.



245 Newman Ave., Suite B  
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[www.kerusglobal.org](http://www.kerusglobal.org)

**Vision**  
**Courage**  
**Compassion**

The Greek word *Kerus* means “of the heart”  
or “to do something with *passion*.”

This word *captures* the spirit and vision of Kerus founders Dr. Jennie Cerullo and Dr. Marcia Ball, who

share a *common goal*:

to offer *hope* and better health through practical, character-based programs. Their *diverse* backgrounds make them uniquely suited for this exciting *outreach*.