

update

Taking the Next Step In Angola

Our partnership with RISE International and Willow Creek Community Church in three regions of Angola has produced amazing results. Over the last 18 months we have trained over 600 teachers and pastors to teach the *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* to young people in their schools and churches. This winter, Drs. Jennie Cerullo and Jim Judge traveled to Angola with a leadership team from RISE International and trained 16 professionals to serve as national *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* Instructors and Conference Coordinators. Starting later this year, Angolan national instructors will be leading their own conferences! Their goal is to train 700 more teachers and pastors by the end of 2009!

Due to the difficult travel and communications systems in this war-torn nation, it is often challenging to know exactly what is happening once a teacher or pastor has been trained to teach the curriculum. The RISE team has visited many locations and to date, several thousand youth have been taught all 16 lessons

of the curriculum. Beyond the “reported” number, however, RISE staff often hear through the grapevine of thousands more children in far away schools in remote areas who have been exposed to the curriculum. Enthusiasm surrounding this outreach has led to some openness by the Angolan Ministry of Education officials to consider training teachers nation-wide.

Our next step in this project is to launch the radio program and discussion group strategy in these areas. Trans World Radio is busy coordinating the production of *Magogo’s Village* into the Portuguese language. With RISE and Trans World Radio in the field, the program will be aired twice per week and will prepare the teachers and pastors, already trained to teach the curriculum, to expand their influence by hosting discussion groups centered around the concepts taught in the program and the connections to deeper spiritual truths. We plan to launch this strategy in the first half of 2009. ❧

>> Drs. Jim Judge and Jennie Cerullo celebrate with the latest group of proud *ITC!* national instructors.



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JENNIE



MARCIA

Each year, the first week in August, we travel to Chicago to attend the Willow Creek Leadership Summit, where 7,000 church and ministry leaders are on site at Willow Creek and another 70,000 join by satellite to be inspired, equipped and challenged to lead with excellence. One of the speakers shared a portion of the Franciscan prayer shared below. We challenge you to substitute “me” for “you” and continue to ask God for the ability to feel what He feels and the courage to do what He shows you.

Our Kerus team is committed to allowing God to keep us “disturbed” so that we might be his effective servants and experience the joy of being close to his heart. Once you finish the “me” version of the prayer, we ask you to pray that prayer for the Kerus team as well.

Jennie Marcia

FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, and starvation, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Learning to TRUST!

*South African Orphans Experience
a New Kind of Care*

✔ Jennie and Marcia show a tiny orphan just how warm his own beautiful handmade quilt will be.



⋈ The orphans receive the first of what will become monthly food parcels in addition to daily meals.

The Kerus Orphan Care Center family with Pastor Albert (center back) and Principal Dricca (far right). >>

This summer, a team of six from Kerus visited the site for the Kerus Orphan Care Center to get to know the orphans and to offer training and assistance. While the team was greeted warmly by a genuinely grateful staff, it became quickly apparent that the true challenge of the visit would be winning the hearts of crisis-weary orphans. Quiet and shy at first, the 50+ AIDS orphans seemed to be watching cautiously to see if these new “foreigners” could truly be trusted. These children live in “Block Y”, an area of Soshanguve classified by the South African government as the poorest of the poor. Growing up in families devastated by AIDS, a staggering number of these children live in child-led households where either they or an older sibling or relative are in charge.

The team began ministering on a practical level by assisting with a community project to provide thick wool blankets for the orphans and other needy children at the local public school that works with the Orphan Care Center. In the midst of their icy southern-hemisphere winter, this gift was greatly appreciated. Educationally, Marcia and Jennie came alongside the teaching staff of the school, offering two in-service training classes for the teachers: one on HIV/AIDS and the other on classroom management. Meanwhile, other team members worked with

each classroom of children, teaching character traits through games. Slowly but surely, relationships began to form with the children, bringing an increasing amount of trust and openness each day. Perhaps these strangers really did care . . .

One of the greatest assets God has provided for the Orphan Care Center is the partnership that has developed between the pastor of the church hosting the care center and the school principal. Pastor Albert Mahlobo, head of the Ark of the Covenant International Church, is a humble man with a learning spirit and a strong passion for helping those who are hurting. Principal Dricca Mooka is likewise a woman who deeply shares Kerus’ vision. When approached about cooperating with the Orphan Care Center, she broke down in tears, confessing that “this is what I’ve been praying for!” Together, these two precious believers are enabling the care center to become a powerful force for positive change and hope in the surrounding community.

Without a doubt, the most overwhelming experience was near the end of the trip, when the first food parcel distribution was held, officially launching the activities of the Orphan Care Center. The day began with a bevy of joyful children dancing down the street from the school to the church, singing at the top of their lungs. At the church, Pastor Albert presented God’s love to the children, explaining that the center was provided





<< A smile says it all!
Katlego puts his artistic
abilities to work.



<< A struggling
granny, caring for
her grandchildren,
expresses her thanks.

by God to help them in their time of need. Each child then went to the front to receive a parcel of food, a portion so generous that the small children had trouble carrying the bag home! The orphans also received quilts handmade especially for them by Katrina Quilters in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Through the tears of that day, it became evident that a new family was developing. The night and day difference between the first meeting and the last hug was a thrilling confirmation that the orphans were finally beginning to believe that someone did care about them - that they were not alone. One small boy threw his arms around Marcia, exclaiming, "We are family!" Another 6th grade girl, Maria, made the poignant remark, "When I go to middle school next year, will I still be family?" The response? An overwhelming YES!! The entire trip was a beautiful time to see and celebrate God's provision for these children who have such physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. 🌱



New KERUS CareWear

Show you
CARE
by what you
WEAR



Your purchase of a new
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, will provide nutrition, medical care, counseling, and training using the *It Takes Courage!* curriculum to the orphans at our center 365 days a year. Proceeds from the sale of each shirt allow caring adults to lead children through the *It Takes Courage!* course. 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 were designed to 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! Unisex and women's designs are \$15 each. Ladies, note that women's shirts run small.

To order, visit the Kerus Store at
www.keruglobal.org.

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

<< Pastor Albert in front of Ark of the Covenant Church where the orphans are currently receiving care until the Orphan Care Center is built on this property.

Two New Productions of Magogo's Village with TWR-Kenya

In June we traveled to Nairobi, Kenya for meetings with Trans World Radio (TWR) Kenya. TWR-Kenya is producing *Magogo's Village*, our 32 program drama series that teaches the information presented in the *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum*.

After three years of prayer and planning, TWR-Kenya National Director, Bernice Gatere, and her production manager, Eric Kadenge, are thrilled to have program production underway. TWR-Kenya was vital to the success of the translation and printing of the *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* when it was launched by Samaritan's Purse in early 2005. Since that time, we have worked and prayed for funding to launch the production of the *Magogo's Village* drama program for Kenya. The TWR-Kenya team is producing two languages at one time, African English (which will be used throughout Africa in English speaking schools and countries) and kiSwahili, the language most often spoken throughout Kenya and Tanzania.

While in Kenya, we had the privilege of meeting several of the people who will be bringing the characters of the drama to life. Maria, a 25-year old Kenyan medical student, will play the drama's central figure, a grandmother named "Magogo." The other actors are children from local churches and schools who will come to the TWR sound studio every Saturday to tape the program. Production of both languages will be completed by the end of this year.

While TWR-Kenya is focused on production, TWR International and Kerus are networking with agencies working in Kenya. Together, we are formalizing plans to launch local drama discussion groups, much like a book club format, where children and families, led by trained facilitators from local churches, will discuss the concepts of the program and explore the spiritual truths underlying the story themes. ☪



>> Bernice Gatere, National Director TWR-Kenya, sports her new *It Takes Courage!* accessories.

What's Next?

Kerus Orphan Care Center Dedication >> Jennie and Marcia will return to South Africa to dedicate the new building for the Orphan Care Center in the town of Soshanguve. They will conduct in-services for the teachers at the local public school, speak at the church, and make plans for an upcoming *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* training shortly after the first of the year.

A New Educational Product >> We are working to complete a field manual for youth workers who are interested in teaching the *It Takes Courage!* youth concepts, but are not in a position to teach the entire youth curriculum. This product includes information, activities and spiritual reflections that can be used in a variety of settings. Anyone will be able to purchase this product for use in the U.S. or abroad.

Magogo's Village Discussion Group Facilitator Training >> We are working to design a 1-2 day training to prepare leaders to organize and facilitate small discussion groups of persons who are listening to *Magogo's Village*, our radio drama program. We have tentative plans to pilot the discussion group strategy in early Spring of 2009.

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 online donation. Your receipt will come from the International Foundation, and 100% of your gift will go directly into the Kerus account.



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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*.