

# update

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## The Power of a STRATEGIC Partnership

“A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” (Eccl. 4:12) This biblical wisdom reminds us that partnership is a powerful thing. In mid-March, Kerus will launch *It Takes Courage!* in Zambia in cooperation with two powerful partners – Willow Creek Community Church and Jubilee Centre.

Jubilee Centre and Willow Creek have been working together to empower the churches and communities of Zambia. Their partnership has united 58 churches with a common mission. As they serve people living in poverty and build just communities, they have found opportunities to pray, learn, and share the love of Jesus. Jubilee Centre is a major force in Zambia, equipping and

serving pastors, professionals, missionaries and Christian leaders to bring political, economic, and moral change to this very needy country.

Kerus has been invited to join this powerful partnership. In mid-March, Kerus will lead the first *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* training in Ndola, Zambia. One hundred pastors, youth pastors, youth workers, and teachers from the Ndola area will attend. Our goal is to reach 5,000 youth with the life-saving messages of the curriculum. Kerus is honored to join the efforts of these two organizations. We believe that this new “cord of three strands” will have an even greater impact in the communities of Zambia.✝

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JENNIE



MARCIA

A Tanzanian proverb says, “I pointed to the stars, and all you saw was the tip of my finger.” Too often, we can focus on the insignificant part of something, or miss the bigger point, the stars, altogether. We all struggle to see beyond today’s circumstances. At Kerus, we want to be star gazers, passionately focused on the stars God is pointing out to us. The challenge for us, amidst a flood of good things, is to keep our focus on the great things God has for us. In 2009, we are asking the Lord to open our eyes to see clearly what he desires for us in the next three to five years. We are in a strategic planning and prayer process that is sure to re-shape how we provide educational services and do ministry. It is an exciting time as opportunities are increasing; *It Takes Courage!* is meeting a huge need. Please pray with us that the ministry of Kerus is not an overwhelming flood, but a raging, channeled river that God can direct and use to bring about his purposes.

Jennie Marcia



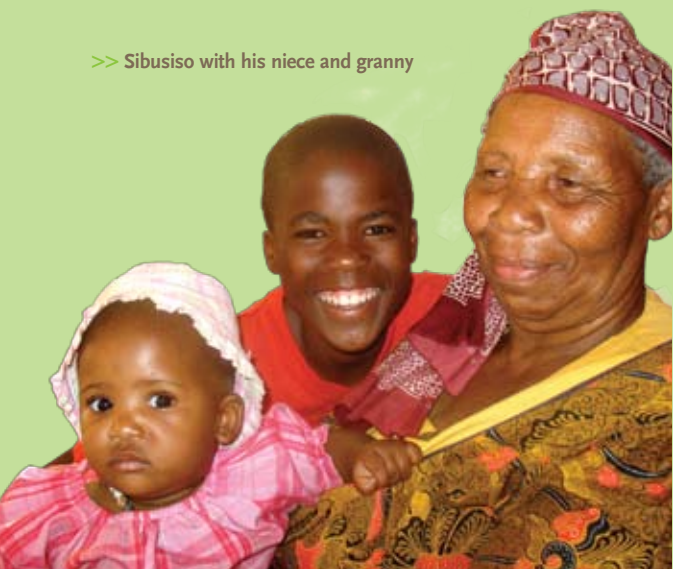
>> *It Takes Courage!* training comes to Zambia.

# A GRIEF Shared

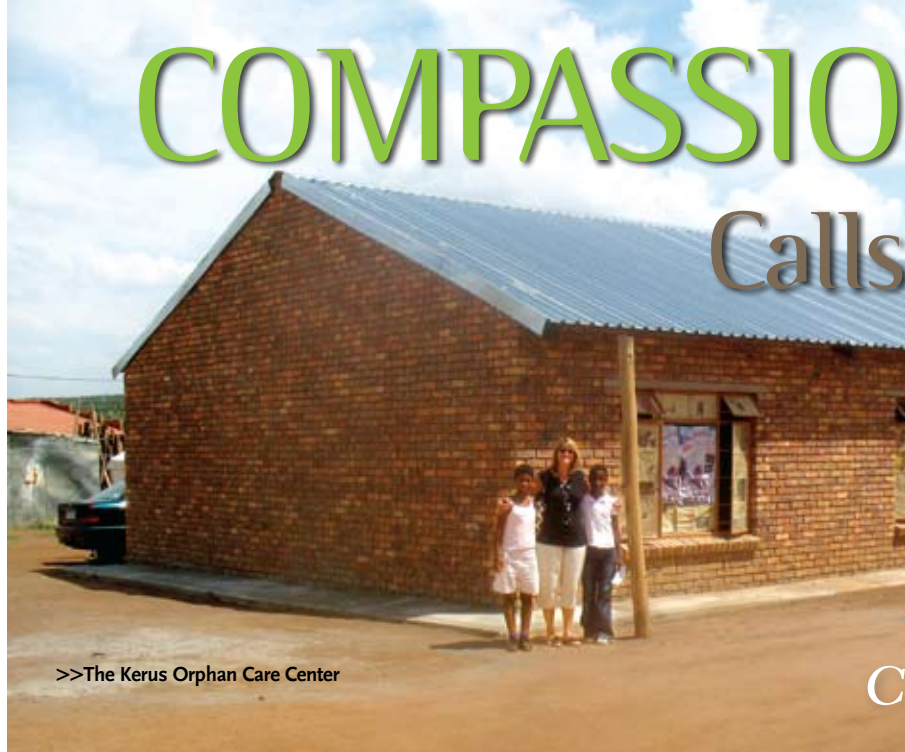
Sibusiso, one of our precious orphans, comes everyday to the Kerus Orphan Care Center. He has lost both parents and now lives with his granny. Sibusiso told Pastor Albert, pastor to our orphan care center, that he really wanted his granny to come to church because she was sad and needed the hope of Jesus. One Sunday, Sibusiso's granny finally went to church with him. Pastor Albert spoke about God's love and promise to carry us through hardships. At the end of the service, Sibusiso's granny prayed with Pastor Albert to receive Jesus.

Sibusiso and his granny went home with a new found joy, only to find a terrifying sight. Sibusiso's older brother was hanging from the rafter. The pain and confusion they felt was beyond words. Two weeks later, we returned and visited Sibusiso and his granny. Sibusiso ran to us, buried his head in our chests, and wept. We talked, cried and prayed together. God's peace filled that humble home. Granny said she would not be able to make it without knowing Jesus personally. She felt his love carrying her through her heartache. Please pray for this sweet family, and for Pastor Albert and Principal Dricca as they care for this community. ❖

>> Sibusiso with his niece and granny



# COMPASSION Calls



>>The Kerus Orphan Care Center

In the nation of South Africa, 1.2 million orphans struggle for survival. Each day, this number grows. For more than a decade now, Kerus has carried the message of courage, character, and life-saving prevention strategies to the nations. But we have felt, with so many of our partners, that the compassion of Jesus calls for more.

The township of Soshanguve is located just outside of Pretoria, South Africa. The average household consists of 10 people who live on a monthly income of \$172. The unemployment rate is 60%. As HIV/AIDS has taken its toll, more and more children live now as orphans, vulnerable to abuse, and traumatized by death and loss. Grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and brothers care for

more and more children with fewer and fewer resources.

In response to this call to compassion, Kerus opened and dedicated a new orphan care center in 2008. With our local partner, Acts2Change, and township churches and schools, Kerus is working to transform the community of Soshanguve. Today, over 50 children receive care daily in the center, including a nutritious meal, a safe place to play, medical care, tutoring for their schoolwork, and spiritual development training that will help them chart a positive course for their lives. All of the children attend school and live with caring adults in the community. Kerus Orphan Care Center exists to assist these primary caregivers.

>> Our growing Kerus family!





## Soshanguve Community Project

*The Compassion of Jesus calls for More ...*

The Soshanguve Community Project seeks to meet the practical needs of a community devastated by poverty and disease. In 2009, Kerus will launch health, spiritual, and educational programs for the orphans, their families, and their neighbors. We will care for the whole community—grannies, pastors, and teachers all working with limited resources to care for those affected by HIV/AIDS—through these initiatives. This is the love of Christ in action, seeking to heal, to restore, to bring life in the face of so much death.

In March, the Kerus team will lead 150 members of the Soshanguve community through the *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* training. Pastors and teachers from surrounding

churches, middle schools and high schools will attend. This training will launch *It Takes Courage!* groups for the youth in the community. Ultimately, through 20 churches and 13 schools, we will reach 7,500 to 10,000 youth with life-saving messages of hope and health.

The compassion of Jesus calls for more. Will you join us in praying for the community of Soshanguve, for the Kerus Orphan Care Center, and for the orphans? To learn more, and to see video and photos from Soshanguve, visit [www.kerusglobal.org](http://www.kerusglobal.org).

*‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’*

— Matthew 25:50 (NIV)

*“It Takes Courage! is in line with our school motto.*

*It takes courage for a person to reach the stars.*

*We want this learner to come from humble beginnings  
and then move up there and reach the sky.*

*I just can't wait for the ITC!*

*training conference in April!”*

- PRINCIPAL DRICCA, PULAMADIBOGO  
PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOSHANGUVE

## Soshanguve INITIATIVES

- 1. Compassionate Care for AIDS Orphans through:**
  - Day-care for pre-school-aged orphans
  - After-school care for school-aged children
  - Daily nutritious meals
  - Homework assistance
  - Medical care
  - Trauma and grief counseling as needed
  - Discipleship training, plus character and life skills development
- 2. Garden Projects**
  - Creating a garden to cultivate vegetables for the Kerus Orphan Care Center
  - Helping orphans create gardens at their residences
- 3. Entrepreneurship and Job Training (2009)**
  - Providing training in basic values necessary for workplace success
  - Developing skills to become economically independent through: computer training, handcrafts, beadwork, artifacts, needlework, embroidery, and similar skills
- 4. It Takes Courage! Youth Outreach**
  - Training over 200 pastors, teachers, grannies and Kerus Orphan Care Center workers to teach the *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* to youth throughout the area
  - Reaching 7,500-10,000 youth with the life-saving messages of the curriculum
- 5. Home-Based Care (2010)**
  - Training church-based volunteer caregivers on the cleaning and treatment of sores, bathing of patients, nutrition, and taking medications as prescribed.
  - Counseling the patient and the family
  - Teaching biblical principles, fellowship, and discipleship



New in the Kerus Bookstore!

# Nice Girls don't change the world



"I hope you realize how much your family, your friends, your church, your community, and this world need you. Don't allow who you truly are to be lost, buried, or devalued... what is most truly matters."

—Lynne Hybels

Lynne Hybels, a dear friend to Kerus, is the wife of Willow Creek pastor Bill Hybels. She lives and writes from a heart grounded in the radical love of Jesus. This book is Lynne's story, the story of how a nice girl became a courageous, dangerous woman. And in some ways, it is every woman's story.

Living much of her life seeking to please a God she saw only as demanding and harsh, Lynne felt lost to herself and to God. In this book, she speaks honestly about her struggle and her life changing encounter with the unconditional love and acceptance of God. Knowing his love, she has learned to live in response to his heart. Today, she is a passionate advocate for justice, healing, and mercy for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

It's never too late to discover that who you really are is exactly what delights God and what the world needs. This book shares a message you'll want to share with friends. ✝

**Nice Girls Don't Change the World**  
by Lynne Hybels

Price: \$8.99 >> [www.kerusglobal.org](http://www.kerusglobal.org)

Thanks to a gift from Lynne Hybels, all proceeds from book sales support the Kerus HIV/AIDS projects in Africa.

## What's Next?

**Ndola, Zambia ITC! Conference** >> In mid-March we will be opening the first *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* training in Ndola, Zambia. We will be partnering with Zambia's Jubilee Centre and Willow Creek Community Church. Pastors, youth pastors, youth workers, and teachers throughout the Ndola area will attend. The goal is to reach over 5,000 youth with ITC!'s life-changing messages.

**Soshanguve, South Africa ITC! Conference** >> In late March, we will be holding an *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* training in Soshanguve, South Africa. This training will launch the Soshanguve Community Project, a multi-organizational outreach which will address a broad range of issues affecting the physical and spiritual health of the community. We are targeting orphans and vulnerable youth, and their families, and will create practical opportunities for public schools and social service agencies to work collaboratively with local churches.

**Lubango, Angola – Launch of Grandma's Village Radio Program** >> In August we will launch the Angola radio strategy. This is a joint project with Trans World Radio, RISE International and Willow Creek Community Church. Approximately 50 small groups will be formed to discuss the *Grandma's Village* dramas heard over the radio each week. Kerus will train teachers and pastors to lead listening groups when the radio program begins to air late September. The radio program reinforces the key messages of the *It Takes Courage! Youth Curriculum* and offers opportunity to explore the spiritual connections of the content more deeply.

## 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.



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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*.