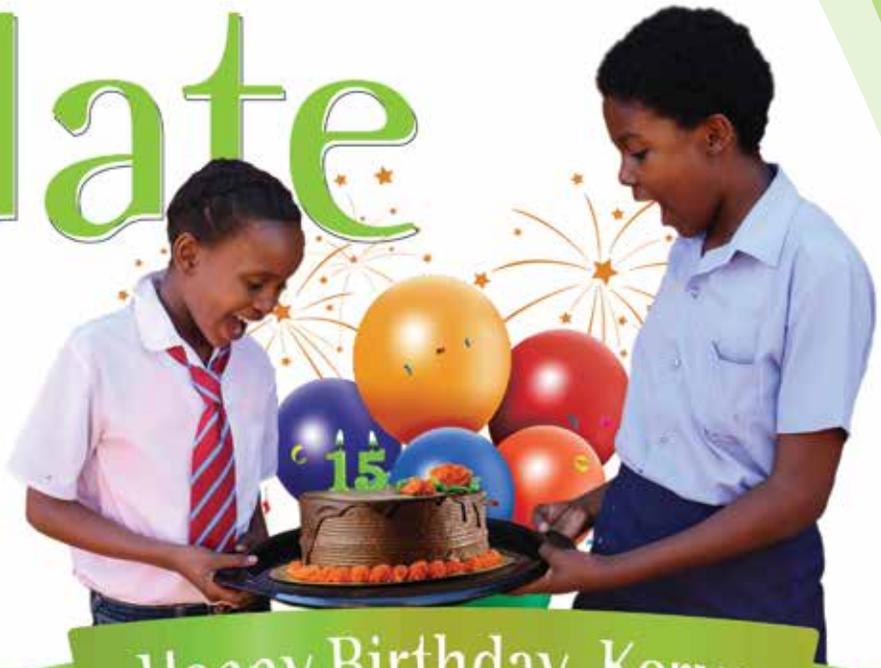


update



Happy Birthday, Kerus

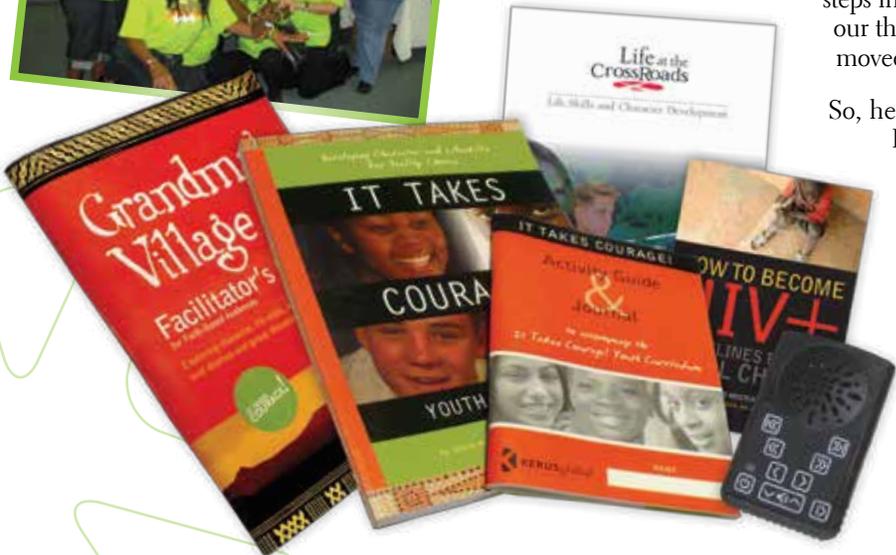


Fifteen years ago, we made a decision that would change not only our lives but the lives of millions around the world. As educators, we were involved in a project to provide educational tools to help combat the growing HIV-AIDS pandemic. Compelled by the overwhelming need all around us, we abandoned the security of academia for the front lines of the warfare - trading academic syllabi and schedules for a life of huts, rides in dilapidated vehicles, atrocious hospital settings, shacks full of grieving family members, sweltering hot schools and regular time in graveyards in front of rows and rows of child graves. During the ensuing hours and hours of working outside of our natural skill sets and being constantly on the move, this new life took us to over 50 nations and to some of the most beautiful spots and with the most courageous people in the world. It also brought us into contact with countless gentle and loving souls who have so little in this world and yet have so much in their hearts.

Over time, these precious lives began to turn our focus from what was on our hearts to what was on God's heart. Little by little, it became more natural to share our real hearts with others, more meaningful to those around us when our passion for acts of love became more important than professional performance. Gradually, as we willfully took steps into places that were on God's heart, we began to realize that our thoughts, character and our desire for Jesus and his teachings moved from duty to passion.

So, here we are, at a point of celebrating the 15 year birthday of Kerus Global Education. It would be appropriate at this point to share historical facts and goals for the next 15 years, and there are truly amazing things to share of research-based,

"Over time, these precious lives began to turn our focus from what was on our hearts to what was on God's heart."



All Things work together for Good!



Over the past five years, the Joshua Wilton House has been a gracious partner with Kerus and a community of friends from Harrisonburg who come together annually to celebrate the work in South Africa. Co-owner, Ann Marie Coe, shares her personal journey with Kerus.

When I was introduced to Jennie and Marcia, I was struggling with my spirituality but felt very drawn to both of them and the work they do in South Africa. As I became a volunteer, I was drawn in even closer by working with all the wonderful people dedicated to the mission of Kerus.

Through this connection of the heart I began to delve into my own personal relationship with the Lord. I began to pray again, read scripture and open my life to a path guided by God.

Since the age of 15, I had a strong desire to do mission work in Africa. During the past five years I began to pray specifically about a trip to the orphan care center. God had a plan for me to go and do some work, which became clear to me by an anonymous contribution toward my trip to South Africa in the fall of 2014. With the love, prayer and support of family and friends, off I went to South Africa.

The experience was rewarding in so many ways. The children at the orphan care center are well loved and taught that *It Takes Courage!* to succeed in a world where so much is stacked against them. Kerus Global is committed to building a strong community in Soshanguve, South Africa, full of love and promise.

I am reminded of this scripture from Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Jennie and Marcia had a vision and have dedicated their lives to God's plan. I am honored and blessed to be a part of the Kerus family.

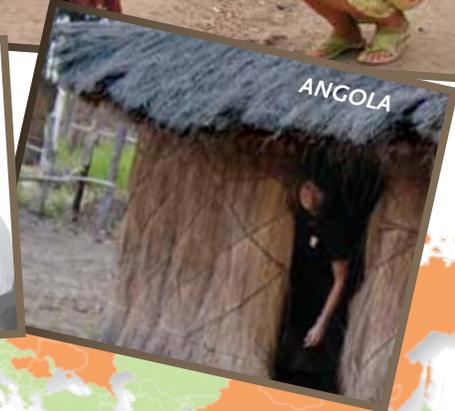
>> Ann Marie Coe
Co-owner Joshua Wilton House

professionalism and value of excellence to our work, of the many lives changed, of the committed people who have worked as partners with us over the years. However, in doing so, we would totally miss the point of celebrating this 15 year journey.

The work of Kerus has always been in response to our belief that there is a loving and compassionate creator. During this year of reflection, we invite you, the Kerus family, and hundreds of others like you around the world, to celebrate not just an organization, but a God who sees, loves and reaches out to help those who are seriously hurting due to corrupt and unjust systems. With humble and grateful hearts, we dance for joy at the privilege of being a part of this amazing work. There will be time to share the milestones of the professional work, but for now, let's keep the right focus...this is God's work, God's story, and a celebration of God's great love for individuals in this world.

The biggest change over 15 years of hard work happened in both of us! And, we've watched it happen to countless others, even many of you, who get out of comfort zones, dare to see and feel what breaks God's heart, and with a holy discontent, engage. This Kerus family has engaged in huge ways! God has used us all with our own gifts to do some incredible things. Thank you for 15 years of your faithful kindnesses, financial gifts, prayers and acts of service for us personally and on behalf of those we all love. Happy Birthday, Kerus Family!

>> Marcia Ball & Jennie Cerullo,
Co-Founders/Executive Directors



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Vision

Courage

Compassion