

update

Celebrating a Decade of God's Faithfulness



The Kerus Orphan Care Center Turns Ten!

We will never forget the day we first walked through Soshanguve, one of South Africa's poorest townships. Surrounded by a sea of shacks, we watched needy children running through dusty streets, sickened by the multitude of fresh graves dug for the weekly burials of those lost to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We could hardly imagine that we would become such an integral part of this community of precious people.

One particular piece of land held nothing but a shack building being used as a church. Here we met a pastor with a vision for change. Across the road, we were introduced to the principal of the local elementary school whose Jesus-filled heart ached for the impoverished children and

families under her care. As we shared our vision of an orphan care center, the tears welled up and hope began to grow. "You are the answer to my prayers," Principal Dricca shared. "I have been so concerned for our orphans and have been wanting to help them and the grannies they live with."

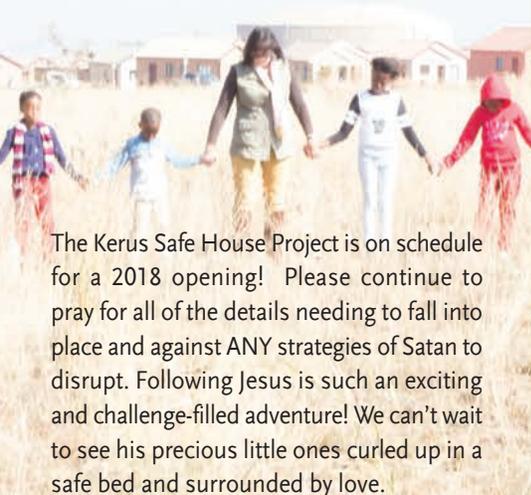
Ten years later, the makeshift church shack has been replaced by a beautiful compound that hosts the flurry of activity that encompasses more than 130 orphans and nearly 95 families that comprise the Kerus Go Amogela Orphan Care Center community. Both children and grannies are wrapped up in the warmth of a caring staff and a growing international family that loves and supports them.

Life is hard in the township, and there are great physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Our children have great hopes for their future, but many face great challenges and dangers, including the very real and increasing occurrence of abuse and sex trafficking.

This past fall, we walked another piece of land – the site of the new Kerus Safe House. A new vision for a new era, the house will provide a place for children who need shelter from an immediate threat to their safety. The two acres of land are paid for and funds for construction are being raised. We hope to open the doors by the end of 2018 and usher in yet another decade of God's remarkable faithfulness!



UPDATE SAFE HOUSE



The Kerus Safe House Project is on schedule for a 2018 opening! Please continue to pray for all of the details needing to fall into place and against ANY strategies of Satan to disrupt. Following Jesus is such an exciting and challenge-filled adventure! We can't wait to see his precious little ones curled up in a safe bed and surrounded by love.

To Do

- ★ Obtain Government permissions and certification
- ★ Raise \$40,000 to start construction
- ★ Match a \$20,000 gift

Done

- ✓ Land acquired
- ✓ House plans drawn
- ✓ Project manager hired

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

Proverbs 3:3



HARRISONBURG WOMEN'S TEAM WITH OCC STAFF

A dream came true [in February] when I served alongside 5 other godly women at the orphan care center. [Kerus is] truly a bright light in a town that has a lot of pain, crime and suffering. The presence of the Holy Spirit is in and around the grounds, buildings, staff, and children at the orphan care center. Kerus truly is giving these children HOPE despite their dire circumstances. << JILL

This trip has been the most transforming and spiritually uplifting time of my life. The beauty and joy that radiates from within each of these souls and pours out into the children they interact with each day was a blessing to witness. The children and staff love in a way I have never experienced. They show love so freely, in ways I will never forget and pray will change the way I give and receive love. Jesus has shown me His ways in a new place with new people, restoring, pouring life and love that I needed to experience. It has changed me forever. << LORI

Some of the highlights of our trip were getting to know the staff and walking alongside them as we were all processing grief and how to forgive. It was such an encouragement to see the readiness and eagerness in their hearts... Each day felt like a reward. There is so much life and joy in Soshanguve in the orphan care center and we feel beyond grateful that we got to experience it first hand. << LIZ

With two artists on our team, we had the pleasure of sharing various art techniques with both the staff and the children. In response to the grief training, the staff were introduced to coffee ground art. They were instructed to make sure that their individual creation was connected to the others around it. The final creation truly exemplified the staff at the orphan care center. They showed attention to detail, they care deeply about the work of each other, and most importantly they are connected through common experiences. While many of those experiences are difficult and challenging, to say the least, they are filled with hope and joy. And they share that hope and joy with the children on a daily basis, instilling in the children that they are beautiful, created for a purpose. << TAMMY

I was immediately struck by the beauty in their eyes, smiles, and gentle (and boisterous) means for getting your attention. Like all children they want to be loved. Both the staff and children radiated a Christian love. I felt joy being around them. The staff is composed of young adults who grew up in or nearby the community and fully understand the challenges. I particularly liked that the Kerus orphan care center is empowering the community from within rather than bringing in outsiders. I was amazed and impressed by how two amazing women have created such a difference in this community and for generations to come. << WENDY



Wendy Lam ^



Lori Trost ^



Coffee Ground Art ^