

update

The new **Kerus Academic Center**
 opens the door to new opportunities

This past spring, another exciting door was opened for the Kerus Orphan Care Center...just next door. The neighbors moved on to a new location, and with a special donation from a long-time friend and Kerus partner, we were able to purchase the house.

This new space adjoining the Orphan Care Center affords us several new opportunities, including a much-needed academic tutoring program and quiet study places for our orphans during the week and on Saturdays. It also gives us a place to host a variety of meetings and activities. Grannies will be able to have their own room for meetings and projects; in 2019 we are going to launch an income generation program where all proceeds will bring much needed revenue back to their homes. The space will accommodate leadership meetings, staff training and spiritual outreach weekends, support groups for our grannies and caregivers, Bible studies and weekend spiritual outreaches.

As you read this, we are hosting a building team sent by our partner ministry, Village to Village, in Harrisonburg, VA. Their construction expertise, labor and donations to the project will help us reach our goal to make this space ready so we can launch new programs in October.

The Kerus Academic Center may be a surprise to you, but the opportunity and the solution happened so fast! Amazingly, our need has been met before we even had time to seek the solution!

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JENNIE



MARCIA

This has been a year of great challenge and incredible success for the Kerus family. God is doing abundantly above and beyond all we could ask or imagine. We are thrilled to be opening the Kerus Academic Center in October! As always, however, laced in with the successes have been tremendous challenges. As many of you know, we braved an unexpected journey through

Jennie's two detached retinas and the months of recovery and adjustment that entailed. Pastor Albert, a key partner in our Soshanguve work, suddenly passed away just two months ago. From the very beginning, we dreamed, prayed and worked hard together to launch the Orphan Care Center. But regardless of the triumphs or trials, there is excitement for what will come next and a sense of safety in knowing who goes before us. A deep and sincere thank you to all who continue to walk this journey with us. You are an integral part of this story!

Jennie Marcia



Top Left >> Discussing needed renovations to the new academic center.

Top Right >> Celebrating the transfer of the property to Kerus.

Bottom >> A warm welcome to the new Kerus Academic Center!

Breaking Ground

on the Kerus Safe House



Safe House construction is underway – sort of!

In preparing the land for construction, a myriad of enormous boulders, some as large as hippos – must be painstakingly unearthed and removed to clear the way for the perimeter fence around the two acres, a must before we can break ground; all materials on site must be secured during the building process. Needless to say, this is a long and wearying task that has slowed the construction schedule considerably. At present, we anticipate groundbreaking in October with completion early in the new year.

Please pray this process will go as quickly and as smoothly as possible. Also pray that the remaining finances needed for completion of the project will be provided. If you are not already partnering in this important venture, we would encourage you to consider coming alongside to help us.

We have girls who desperately need this haven NOW!



Restoring what was lost

HELPING A PRECIOUS FAMILY RECOVER

Just hours before, this had been Grannie Martha's oldest granddaughter's bedroom - now it was ashes - the meager store of clothing, personal belongings and textbooks reduced to nothing in an electrical fire. Gratefully all had gotten to safety, and the rest of the house was spared, but still, yet another great loss for Martha and the precious little ones she struggles to raise.

Grannie Martha is the cook and unofficial "Grannie" of the OCC. And, like so many other grannies in the Soshanguve community, she has been raising her three grandchildren since their parents, her own children, were taken with HIV/AIDS. Kerus is stepping in to fix the burned room and roof of their small shack-like dwelling and to help replace the lost property with quilts, clothing and new textbooks. Grannie Martha's discouragement is turning to praise for her God that is providing for her through Kerus. Would you please take a moment today and pray for all of our grannies, most of whom struggle each and every day to keep their little ones fed, safe and doing well in school.



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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*.

Vision // Courage // Compassion