



**God is working
despite global challenges**

August 2020

Dear partners in ministry, I am frequently asked, "What's the situation in Africa these days?" I'd like to answer that by letting you hear from some of the pastors I work with. But the short answer is that God is doing great things globally through His church despite challenging circumstances.

God is working despite global challenges

God is continuing to advance His kingdom despite significant pandemic-related challenges. Here are some **testimonies** as well as **prayer requests** from dear friends of mine. To read more, [visit this blog](#) or [holistic help for the nations](#).

- **Pastor David in Masailand, northern Kenya** is working to intercede on behalf of "young girls who are at heightened risk of forced child marriage and FGM" (a horrendous cultural custom leaving girls physically and emotionally wounded). Please pray that God will intervene, and these girls will receive the care and protection they need.
- **Pastor Paul in northern Uganda** oversees hundreds of churches in northern Uganda and South Sudan. When lockdown occurred, he encouraged all church leaders to move people to small groups, and the ministry leaders have been visiting these groups and encouraging them.
- A similar strategy has been used by **Pastor Onesmus in southern Kenya** who gave testimony that *"the church is fully alive and kicking well even when at home. This enabled many families to reunite and a lot was restored. We noticed that people are giving more than ever. Surely the church belongs to JESUS. The gates of hell will never overcome it. Thanks to God. Shalom!"*

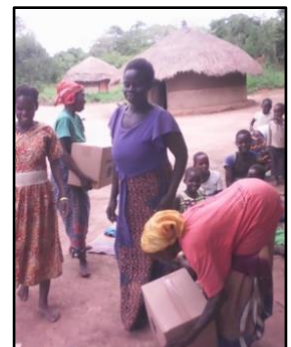


David with a girl he rescued



Paul distributing food to those in need

At the same time, economic and spiritual pressures upon pastors are intense. **Pastor Samuel in Togo** told me, "People in my country expected pastors are going to starve, but the Lord provides our needs every day." When I offer financial assistance to Samuel, rather than keeping it for himself, he uses it to bless 15 other struggling ministry leaders in his community. This same story is echoed by **Pastor James in Tanzania**, who uses funds to help pastors plant maize which grows quickly and can be harvested to feed families. **Pastor Daniel in Tanzania** expressed that although there is a struggle to get items they need due to lack of funds, yet *"I will continue to thank God for his*



Many are in need across Africa

miracle in my life in this time of corona disease. God raised people like you who stood with me at that hard period of time and I put my hope in God that he will fight for me."

Christianity's geographic center is moving to Africa

Studies show that faith and fertility work hand in hand, and the nations of the world that are growing quickest both in population and in numbers of Christians are located in Africa. The **need for equipping ministry leaders** in how to handle God's Word well could never be greater. For more, [visit this blog](#).

Holly and Eric continue to work

Holly is initiating a prayer ministry for African women, and will have more to share in the near future. As soon as Eric's dissertation is done (hopefully in next month or two), he will turn all his efforts toward developing and offering **online training to pastors globally** through video, audio, and zoom meetings. Lord-willing, travel restrictions will be lifted soon.

Dissertation

I have finally finished the largest portion of my dissertation: three findings chapters totaling 170 pages! I have been discovering a great deal of useful material for our mission organization and many others who train globally, and we are **already implementing changes** based on some of these discoveries. Now I'm turning my attention to the final two chapters, then editing, final review, and then I defend it before the dissertation committee.

Recent blog posts

[Catch a glimpse into Alyssa's life](#) from the perspective of a 16 year old girl who has spent nearly half her life [struggling with sickness, yet trusting God](#).

Holly wrote about [life as the wife of a world traveler](#).

In case you missed it, read about [Holly's miraculously improved health](#).

Very recently, God presented us with an opportunity to [release our nice Mazda](#) and trust Him and His provision through the experience.

For more, visit www.belzglobal.com.

We truly appreciate your faithful partnership with us in these challenging days, and your support is blessing many around the world. Grace and peace as we continue serving our King!

*With our love and prayers,
Eric, Holly, and the team*



Adam and Andrew with
Hollymama on the beach in
Washington