

## 2022 Abbreviated Annual Report for Eric Belz Africa Director of Pathways Pastor Training - EFCA/ReachGlobal

This is an abbreviated version of what I typically create in the hopes it will be easier for more to digest. Thank you for taking time to read and partner with us.

1. **Your Ministry:** *Explain your ministry in one-two sentences for a lay person.*

My ministry is to train African (and global) pastors and church leaders to study, understand, and teach God's Word well, equipping them to pass this training on to others. I also equip US pastors to assist in this work, develop and revise our curriculum, preach in stateside churches when invited, and assist our mission organization (ReachGlobal) and home church (Littlerock Community Fellowship) with various ministry tasks. Holly works to mobilize prayer initiatives for the pastors I work with, their wives, and other needs in Africa and globally, as well as increasing awareness about aspects of missions and supporting me in my work.

2. **Locations:** *Where are you serving?*

In Africa, this year I have been working to complete our Pathways training process in Togo, Ivory Coast, and Zambia, all of which graduated in 2022. I have also been training networks in Tanzania (2), Kenya (2), and Uganda (2). In 2023, I will be launching new networks in Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, and possibly Kenya, Ethiopia, and elsewhere. This is in addition to several stateside training locations.

3. **Successes and Challenges:** *What are some of the encouragements and discouragements you've seen this past year?*

**Successes:**

- Holly continues to get healthier, has been joining me on several stateside trips, and Lord-willing, will be joining me in Uganda in January.
- Adam is progressing through seminary, and just got engaged to a lovely mission-minded girl (Sofia). Andrew continues his real estate career and is serving in the local church. Alyssa also serves in the church and will start at Boyce College in Kentucky in January. We praise God all our kids know and love Jesus.
- Pastors in our Africa Pathways networks are growing in their Bible study skills, multiplying the trainings, graduating from our program, and more networks are soon to be launched.
- I'm grateful for opportunities to preach the Word both stateside and in Africa.
- We are making great progress in updating our curriculum to incorporate discoveries from my dissertation research and other needed revisions.

**Challenges:**

- International travel continues to be challenging for a number of reasons. By God's grace, I'll remain on target, but travel around the world each month takes a toll.
- We have many training requests, but to launch networks I need teams of qualified pastors to serve as trainers. If I had more trainers, I could launch many more networks.
- There are consistent challenges in Africa such as: financial provision for pastors we train and those they train, hurdles to multiplications, ministry demands that pull participants away from full engagement in the program, cultural patterns that mitigate full utility of Pathways study tools, and learning styles/background that require adjusting the training.

4. **Future:** *What ministry goals and plans do you have for the next year?*

- Continue Pathways trainings with networks in Tanzania (2), Uganda (2), and offer final trainings and graduate two networks in Kenya.
- Launch new networks in Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, and possibly Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Explore options for ministry to Somali church leaders on the Kenya/Somalia border.
- Equip, train, and mobilize teams of US pastors to participate in global training efforts.
- Preach domestically at our home church and other locations.
- Meet with any supporting churches who invite us, and maintain support partnerships.
- Meet monthly with Pathways leaders to make necessary curricular revisions.
- Investigate a potential full-time partner to assist me in Pathways Africa.
- Assist team members training nationals in other parts of the world as needed.

5. **Finances:** *What are your financial needs to accomplish your ministry?*

We are very thankful for the many partners, both individuals and churches, who give sacrificially and generously so we can continue our mission work. We cherish the relationships we share, and pray they continue long into the future. Because of my full capacity work in Africa (training at least every month globally and domestically) and Holly's part-time mission work, our support requirements are significant. Yet we live within our means so as not to outspend support from faithful donors and churches.

At the same time, two factors are at work that must be considered:

- 1) Global pastors, particularly in Africa, are facing increased financial needs and seek additional support from us. Every week I receive requests from beloved pastors seeking assistance, and also all our training networks require additional assistance for participants.
- 2) Costs for everything from local and global travel, in-country international expenses, and our personal expenses due to inflation and cost of living increases (plus two kids in college), result in us being stretched financially. I am not able to get a life insurance policy due to my frequent travel to Africa, so we will trust God with this. God has been and will continue to be faithful in providing for our needs, but we must be wise stewards with His resources.

6. **Prayer Requests:** *What are your biggest ongoing prayer requests?*

Personally

- Holly and Alyssa continue to gain strength and health, and for this we praise God.
- Alyssa will be studying at Boyce College in Louisville, Kentucky (on same campus as Adam's seminary) beginning in January 2023. She is not sure her next steps beyond May. Pray for her adjustments to living and schooling away from home (her first time in a physical classroom since 4<sup>th</sup> grade), for Christ-centered relationships at school, and for wisdom in determining her next steps.
- Adam just got engaged! Please pray for his relationship with Sofia, that God would graft the two together into one, that their wedding in June and their marriage would honor the Lord, and that both of them will continue well in their Master of Divinity program at Southern Seminary.
- Andrew would appreciate prayer for his real estate career and that he would honor Christ in his ministry commitments and all his relationships. He will be moving closer to his work in January, so we'll be entirely empty nesters at that time!
- For Holly and me to live in understanding, grace, and wisdom with each other, growing in patience, compassion, and humility as we navigate new roles with our adult children.

- For sweet times of family fellowship whenever the kids may be around.
- For God's Word and the empowering Spirit to guide my attitudes and actions every moment of every day. I want to abide in Christ and Him in me (John 15:1-11).

### In ministry

- Praise God for dear pastor partners in Africa to utilize the Pathways principles in their churches and pass the trainings on to many other ministry leaders. Pray that God will launch movements of faithful preachers of the Word, with churches built on God's truth rather than man's ideas.
- Pray for God's grace and wisdom in existing ministry partnerships (global and domestic) and His leading in connecting with new potential partners toward expanding Pathways throughout Africa. Pray I will be humbly dependent on Him (Prov. 3:5-6).
- Pray for God's guidance and blessing on Holly's various ministry endeavors.
- Pray I will seize every opportunity to point people to Jesus and live out Christ for them – whoever it might be: the guy sitting next to me on the plane, the pastor and family I'm staying with in rural Africa, or the driver dropping me off at the airport, for example.
- Pray I will serve well in our home church (which is without a preaching pastor, so I'm helping fill in as I'm able) and in the global church as opportunities arise.

Submitted with appreciation for our supporters and gratitude to our awesome God.

*Eric Belz*

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**reachglobal**  
Develop. Empower. Release.

### The Belz Family


**Holly and Eric**

**Training pastors globally  
to study, obey, and  
teach God's Word**

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"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has  
no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." - 2 Timothy 2:15

Serving God with  
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