

**2023 Annual Report for Eric and Holly Belz**  
**Africa Director of Pathways Pastor Training (Eric)**  
**and Global Prayer Coordinator (Holly)**  
**EFCA/ReachGlobal**

Thank you for taking time to read this annual report, and for your partnership with us. If you desire a more comprehensive report, or have additional question, please let me know and I can supply additional information.

1. **Your Ministry:** *Explain your ministry in a few sentences for a lay person.*

My (Eric's) 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, I develop and revise our curriculum, I preach in stateside churches when invited. And I assist our mission organization (ReachGlobal) and home church (Littlerock Community Fellowship) with various related ministry tasks. Holly works to mobilize prayer teams and initiatives both for our larger Global Equipping division and for the global partners with whom I work, both the pastors and their wives. In addition, she increases awareness and mobilizes prayer for other local and global needs such as disability ministries, the persecuted church, and other areas. She links people with necessary resources, and occasionally joins me on domestic and international trips to connect networks and partners.

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

Past and present Pathways networks in Africa where I train pastors include: Kenya (6 locations), Tanzania (3 locations), Uganda (3 locations), Rwanda (2 locations), Zambia (2 locations), Ethiopia, DR Congo, Malawi, South Africa, Central African Republic, Mali, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Egypt. Within the next few months, I also anticipate launching new networks and offering training in Morocco, Cameroon, another network in Kenya, Egypt, and other locations. We recently graduated two networks in Uganda, one network in Kenya, and will soon graduate a network in Tanzania. All of this is in addition to several stateside training locations, serving in our local church, and occasional trainings I offer in other parts of the world.

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

**Successes:**

- Holly delights in her role as a prayer coordinator for the Pathways Bible Training team. She is developing many connections personally and through social media in America and globally and has been able to join me on several stateside trips and international trips. She loves to "develop, empower, and release" prayer initiatives, whether for domestic ministries like Joni and Friends disability ministry or international efforts in Africa or other parts of the world. This year she has seen opportunities multiply and pours herself into communicating a variety of prayer needs with many partners and networks.
- We praise God all our kids know and love Jesus and are serving Him. Adam is progressing well through seminary and is loving his new role as husband for his sweet wife Sofia as both prepare to serve Christ long-term overseas. Andrew continues his real estate career, is serving in the local church, and is having a blast with his roommate Kyle

who attends the same church. Alyssa is studying Bible, counseling, and global ministries at Boyce College in Kentucky, loves to share her faith regularly in the community, and is helping lead a mission trip to Indonesia in May 2024.

- Pastors in our Africa Pathways networks are growing in their Bible study skills, multiplying the trainings, graduating from our program, and more networks are launching all the time. Witnessing the growth in two networks of pastors in Uganda who just graduated in November was a great encouragement. Another victory this year has been the addition of a full-time partner, Randy Widbin, a retired pastor, who is helping me develop Pathways in Africa.
- I'm grateful for opportunities to preach the Word both stateside and in Africa. I sense God's pleasure when I preach, and feel compelled to expand this aspect of my ministry.
- Our curriculum revision team and I are making great progress in updating our Pathways material to incorporate discoveries from my dissertation research and other needed improvements.

### **Challenges:**

- There are consistent challenges in Africa such as: financial provision for pastors we train and those they train, hurdles to multiplication of our training, and cultural patterns and learning styles that mitigate full utility of Pathways study tools. Recently, I have been learning how deeply dependent the African pastors are on us, financially and in other ways. Culturally this is expected and oftentimes appropriate, but it creates a burden as I seek wisdom in fostering healthy long-term movements that will continue to multiply beyond my sphere of influence or provision.
- 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.
- International travel continues to be challenging physically, financially, and in other ways. By God's grace, I'll remain on target, but travel around the world each month takes a toll.

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

- Complete Pathways training and graduate our network in Tanzania.
- Continue offering trainings in Malawi, Rwanda, and Liberia. Continue offering training for church planters through Tyrannus Bible School in locations like Mali, CAR, Morocco, Niger, Chad, etc. My goal is to continue growing trainings we offer in sub-Saharan Africa while launching more networks to the north in Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, toward Somalia.
- Launch new networks in Kenya, Cameroon, South Africa, and wherever God opens a door.
- Equip, train, and mobilize teams of US pastors to participate in global training efforts.
- Preach domestically at our home church and other locations as invited.
- Meet with any supporting churches who invite us and maintain support partnerships.
- Meet monthly with Pathways leaders to make necessary curricular revisions.
- Assist team members training ministry leaders 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, support requirements by our mission 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, decreasing resources, local currencies weakening while the dollar strengthens, and thus they require additional support from us. Every week I receive requests from beloved pastors seeking personal assistance in addition to increased help for participants in all our training networks. Africa is unique in this way, requiring more aid than other global locations where we train.

2) Costs have increased for everything from local and global travel, in-country international expenses, ReachGlobal expenses, and our personal expenses due to inflation and cost of living increases (plus two kids in college). The result is we are stretched financially, but this is not unique for us, and serves to grow our faith and trust in God and His people. At the same time, we must be wise stewards with His resources. At this point, our ministry account is being depleted quickly, and we will either need to find more ways to decrease expenses or raise about \$3000/month so our ministry income matches our expenses.

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

- Praise God for the opportunity to preach and train pastors and ministry leaders all over Africa, and for the hundreds and thousands of others who our master trainers are training in how to study and teach God's Word well.
- For Eric, please pray for wisdom as I seek to select networks and locations where we will train, for there are many more requests than we can fulfill. Also pray for wisdom at working with existing networks in areas of multiplication, financing, utilizing principles, and program specialization (certain networks require a modified program). Also pray as I work with a small team to rewrite and improve our curriculum. Please also pray I can gather and train more stateside pastors who are willing to join us in training pastors globally.
- For Holly, praise God for all the opportunities for mission-related prayer connections that have happened this year. Pray for wisdom in mobilizing more people and networks to intercede for God's work and workers globally.
- Please pray for increased support to come in for our ministry account with EFCA. Most of our wonderful, faithful supporters have stayed at the same support level for the past 10-15 years, but expenses have increased significantly. God is able, and we are trusting Him, but we also must be diligent in prayer and pursue potential partner leads.

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

*Eric Belz*

Africa Director of Pathways Pastor Training


Cell: +1.360.915.3921 (also WhatsApp)

Email: [eric.belz@efca.org](mailto:eric.belz@efca.org)

Website: [www.belzglobal.com](http://www.belzglobal.com)

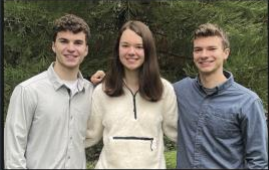
**reachglobal**  
Develop. Empower. Release.

The Belz Family



Holly and Eric

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



Andrew, Alyssa, and Adam

Cell: 360.915.3921  
eric.belz@efca.org  
holly.belz@efca.org  
www.belzglobal.com

Serving God with  
EFCA/ReachGlobal  
901 East 78th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55420  
belzglobal.com/ministry/give  
(BELZ - Account #1521)

"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

