

2024 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.

Brief family update: Holly and I are empty nesters, but despite missing our kids, we are thankful they are all walking with Christ and serving Him in various ways. Adam and Sofia are finishing seminary in Louisville (Adam graduates in May 2025), and they have been accepted as missionaries with Reaching and Teaching, a very good mission organization. Their plan is to serve God by planting churches in southeast Asia. Andrew is continuing his real estate career, is considering a career in firefighting, and serves in various ways in our home church. Alyssa will also graduate in May from Liberty University and is looking to serve overseas in missions and is working toward several exciting global opportunities.

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 serve on our curriculum revision team, and I preach in stateside churches when invited. I also assist our mission organization (ReachGlobal) and home church (Littlerock Community Fellowship) with various related ministry tasks.

Holly delights in her role as a prayer coordinator for the Pathways Bible Training team and the larger Global Equipping division. She is developing many connections personally and through social media in America and globally and has been able to join me on several stateside and international trips. She educates people about prayer needs, for example related to the persecuted church. This year she has seen opportunities multiply and pours herself into communicating a variety of prayer needs with many partners and networks.

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

In the past year I trained pastors in Rwanda, Mali, Egypt, India, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, and also trained US pastors in domestic locations so they can take our material locally and globally. Generally, I travel to Africa (or somewhere internationally) every month to train networks of pastors. 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:

- For Holly, she is encouraged by the monthly Pathways prayer times and disseminating these prayer elements to others. She also loves to connect with the wives of our Pathways team, which is now over 20 people, and prays with them as a group and individually. She has been stretched in her public role by leading prayer initiatives for our larger global equipping team and at various missions conferences. She delights in praying with various leaders from church missions teams as well as through social media connections.
- 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 global pastors as well as stateside pastors who attend our workshops is always encouraging. One unusual and particularly encouraging element this year was working with church planters in Mali and Mombasa, Kenya who are being equipped to plant churches in unreached and very challenging locations like Somalia, where I am unable to go. I anticipate continuing and increasing this focus in 2025.
- I'm grateful for opportunities to preach the Word both stateside and in Africa. I sense God's pleasure when I preach, and will make the most of these opportunities when they arise.
- 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. Over the next year we hope to develop an oral oriented version of Pathways which is desperately needed globally, especially in Africa.

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. As director for our work in Africa, where there are more needs than another other global region, I regularly struggle with how to balance the increasing demands with limited resources.
- 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.
- Also, since I am gone every month for a large portion of the month, Holly and I must work to guard our relationship and keep our connection strong, since she is not able to join me for most trainings.

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

We will offer final trainings and perform graduations for the networks in Rwanda, Malawi, Liberia, and southern Kenya. We will also launch a new network in Egypt, launch a new network in Kenya, train a separate network in Kenya that will do church planting in Somalia where we are not allowed to enter, hopefully launch a new network in Nigeria, and one in Burundi, and I will also train pastors in India and SE Asia. I will also be training several networks of stateside pastors in various parts of the U.S. as well as the other duties listed above. I will continue meeting with certain Pathways leaders to make necessary curricular revisions and develop an oral oriented version of our material. I hope to preach domestically at our home church and other locations as invited. In addition, I have been asked to consider how to equip ministry leaders specifically to target unreached people groups globally, so it is possible I will broaden my scope beyond Africa and also possibly broaden the training I offer.

Holly will continue growing her domestic and international prayer ministry and developing stateside partners who pray fervently with her. She also assists our larger global equipping division in mobilizing a variety of prayer initiatives. We also hope to connect meaningfully with our supporting churches periodically.

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. For example, last month I was in Malawi which was declared a national state of famine, so I worked to bring some extra assistance with me. In early December, I will be in Egypt which has experienced unparalleled inflation (fuel prices have quadrupled, food prices have doubled, etc.) 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/seminary). 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. We are working to keep our ministry account healthy so our ministry expenses do not exceed our contributions.

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, understand, and teach God's Word well. We rejoice in the many thousands in Africa and globally who have received Pathways Bible Training and are utilizing healthy Bible study principles in growing God-glorifying churches.
- For Eric, please pray for wisdom as I seek to select networks and locations where we will train. 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, particularly as we try to develop an oral-oriented version of our training material. 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.

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

Website: www.belzglobal.com

reachglobal
Develop. Empower. Release.

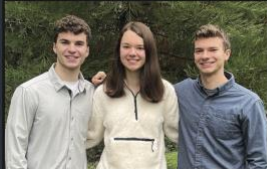


The Belz Family



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

