



## Equipping Africans to Reach Africans



Leading children's program in Uganda

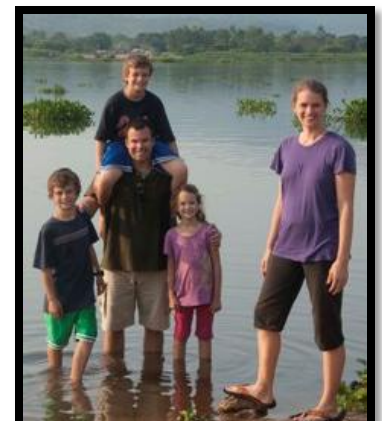
### The Kingdom of God is Growing in Uganda

In July, the Belz family launched on a spiritual adventure by heading into the rural bush regions of northern Uganda. Life has been hard for these people who have endured decades of harsh war, famine, and oppression (you can [CLICK HERE](#) to read about Pastor Paul Ochaya as an example.) But now the **Gospel has penetrated** and there is great reception to the teachings of Christ. While Eric taught 50-80 adults inside a mud church,

Holly and the kids were outside working with nearly 100 children from the community. Along with ReachGlobal colleagues Tony and Steve, it was a conference filled with challenges and blessings. There were some **intense spiritual battles** during our time, a sign that we were engaged in kingdom work. Two people accepted the Lord as their Savior, many others took great strides in their new faith, and our family was stretched as our faith grew. One of the greatest joys for Holly and me was seeing [our children engage in ministry](#) with kids from 2-15 yrs old as they shared Jesus, played together, sang and built relationships. In Andrew's words, *"We had an awesome time with the kids, but it was a lot of hard work."* Holly said she's definitely interested in returning, and now she knows what will be necessary to have a team come along and offer a better program for all. We were also able to have some important meetings with the leaders of this movement of churches, and put in motion some needed changes for the future. [CLICK HERE](#) for a video on our family ministry.

### Family Fun

As the kids return to school August 22, it is a good time to reflect on the great family times we had together over the summer. Holly frequently comments how much slower life is here in Africa than in America, and this gives us opportunities to have **daily family devotions**, to **play** games together (like hide-n-go seek when the power is out at night... it's REALLY dark!), and get together with **friends**. We took a short trip for three days into the **jungles** of Morogoro and did some hiking, and even [swung on some vines](#)!



At the Nile River near Sudan

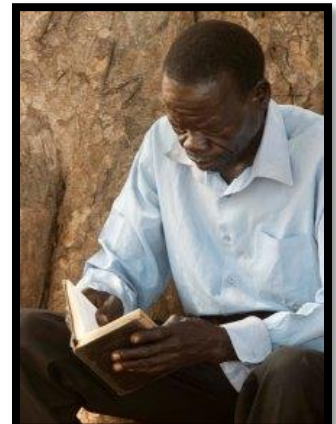
### The Reason We're Here...

With Ramadxn coming to an end, and as I continue to talk with Africans inside and outside the church, it is obvious that most are placing their faith in their good works to get to "God." In contrast, beginning in September I will be gathering a group of five specially chosen, gifted, like-minded African pastors who will become **our first African Equip Team**. We will meet

together regularly to strategize how to best equip Africans to reach Africans, and then go out to train other pastors about God's GRACE and how to build healthy ministries. Please pray for George, Greyson, Michael, Adam and Ikongo as we launch this **prototype group**. *"This group is what I have been praying and crying with tears waiting for,"* Pastor Adam said. And Pastor Ikongo added, *"I want to be your Timothy, and you will be my Paul."* (cf. 2 Tim.2:2)

**Please pray** for a couple **upcoming trainings** Eric has:

- Shinyanga, Northwest Tanzania – **Sept.1-4**. Over 100 pastors and their wives will be gathered for their **annual conference** where I am teaching, followed each evening by open air evangelistic crusade meetings. Pray God speaks through me, that I would decrease and He will increase, and many will come to know Christ and grow in their handling of God's Word and in ministry skills. I'm leading this conference solo, so pray for energy as well.
- Morogoro, Tanzania – **Sept.5-9**. Eric and two other pastors will take a group of church leaders through the book of Jonah to teach them how to **study and preach God's Word well**, among other subjects.
- Please also pray for **Holly and the kids** while Eric is away at trainings as strange things always seem to happen during these times.



**Ugandan man reading Bible**

### **Other Prayer Requests**

1. Please pray for **Adam** as he begins secondary school (grade 6), **Andrew** starts 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and **Alyssa** starts 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Pray for good friendships, for safety in traveling through the crazy streets of Dar to school each day, and for healthy academic and spiritual development.
2. Please keep Adam and Andrew in your prayers as they have had **stomach problems** for many months. We've talked with doctors and are having difficulty finding the problem.
3. Praise God **Holly** is building good relationships with local women, and is using her gifts with children in **children's ministry** programs. Please pray for wisdom as she seeks to find the best niche to pour her efforts.

### **Do you prefer a "snail mail" version of our update letters?**

With most of support team, we send email updates because these reach you more quickly and save on the cost of postage. However, if you prefer to **receive a printed out copy**, there are two options: either you can [click on this link](#) to print out any of our letters in PDF format, or you can let me know by email ([eric.belz@efca.org](mailto:eric.belz@efca.org)), and I'll be happy to add your home address to our list of those receiving a printed copy of letter.



Thank you again for continuing to walk with us, despite turbulent economic times in America. **We truly appreciate you!** God's kingdom is growing in East Africa through your partnership!

Pressing on by God's grace,

*The Belz Family*  
*Eric, Holly, Adam, Andrew, Alyssa*

*"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the Gospel will save it."* -Mark 8:34-35