



Dear family and friends,

I want to start by apologizing for the delay in sending you a recent update on how our family is doing. Since arriving back in America nearly four months ago, we've constantly been evaluating the best way to proceed for the health of our family, particularly Holly and Andrew, and I wanted to write as soon as I knew something definitive. I know that you have been praying for us, and many of you have been writing encouraging notes, and **we sincerely appreciate your love.**

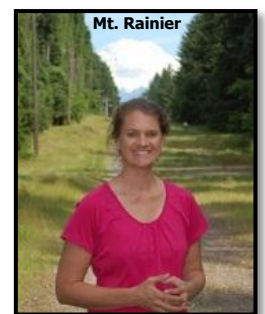
Plans for our near future...

While we praise God that Andrew's GI issues continue to improve, over the last week, it has become clear that Holly's health is not improving to the degree necessary for her to make the trip back to Africa and re-engage in life there. One of my life verses is Proverbs 16:9 – *"Man plans out his course, but the Lord determines his steps."* Isaiah reminds us, *"God's ways are not our ways."* Although we had planned on returning to Africa in August, following discussion and in conjunction with leadership of ReachGlobal, we see it will be necessary for us to spend the next **4-6 months here in the US** allowing Holly the time and advanced care to fully recover her health. There is not a shred of doubt that our hearts are **fully committed to returning to Africa** and continuing the work of equipping African pastors and leaders. At the same time, for the effectiveness and longevity of our work in Tanzania, health will be vital. We trust God will work this out for good according to His perfect plan.

As you can imagine there have been many tears and much frustration as Holly has done everything she can to regain health, but we are not seeing the results necessary to re-enter life in Africa. She has been camped out in the Psalms for the last few months and through the hours of the night she quotes passages like Ps.142:3 – *"When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who know my way."*

What is really going on with Holly's health?

Extreme fatigue, heart fluctuations, hypoglycemia and sensitivity to stimulus are the main areas Holly is still experiencing physically. After consulting many doctors, specialists and much research on the web, we believe Holly is between Stage 2 and 3 of **adrenal burnout**, having improved from Stage 4 while in Africa four months ago. For more information, you can visit: www.adrenalfatigue.org. Through additional rest in a low stress environment, good nutrition, supplements, and allowing time for the adrenal system to heal, there is a **good prognosis for full recovery.**



What about the rest of the family?

If you know me, you know that I (Eric) am not about to sit back and do nothing waiting for Holly to heal. While **caring for my family** is my top priority, I am excited to share that God has opened many doors for me to **continue with my work of equipping African leaders** through partnerships with US churches and individuals. I will be able to develop training materials, mobilize and equip pastors and lay leaders to train networks of pastors I have in East Africa, and cast vision for others to engage in future trainings. During the last few months, dozens of people have expressed sincere interest in helping serve the African church and community, and this extra time in the US will give me the opportunity to better prepare them and move our work forward in East Africa. Meanwhile, we will be trying to **settle our family somewhere in the US** where Holly can get healthy and where the kids can begin the school year in a local school.



By the way, if you are interested in a brief video highlighting a trip summitting Mt. Rainier I just did, click [HERE](#) →

Watch
Video



This is a long way from the heat of Dar es Salaam!

Prayer Requests

1. **URGENT!** Please pray for wisdom and God's guidance in determining a **place to live** and enroll the kids in school, and for provision of a vehicle, furnishings, and a temporary life in the US. If you know of a good option **please let us know soon**. My family is very ready for some stability. Pray the kids adjust well and build good friendships with other kids wherever we end up.
2. Pray for continued **improvement for Andrew** as we implement an anti-inflammatory diet that should allow his GI tract to heal up the rest of the way.
3. Pray for Holly to get stronger **physically, emotionally and spiritually** as she manages her health and stress issues, and draws near to the Lord through the process.
4. Pray for Eric to square away **details on our work and life in Tanzania** (I will probably make a trip there soon) and then to work effectively with US contacts and ReachGlobal leadership in preparing others to "equip Africans to reach Africans."

Thank YOU

We are so deeply grateful that you are continuing to stand with us through these crazy days. We are **leaning on your prayers**, and sense your sincere support of our family. **Please don't give up!** As always, I am happy to dialogue more with you through **email** (eric.belz@efca.org) or by **phone** (630.313.0132). *"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."* (2 Cor.13:14)

Pressing on by God's grace,

The Belz Family
Eric, Holly, Adams, Andrew, Alyssa

