

# Tidings from Tanzania

October 2012

**Dear family and friends,**

In my devotions a few days ago I was reading 1 Kings 19, as God appears to Elijah, not in a powerful wind, or earthquake, or fire, but in the gentle whisper that followed. As soon as Elijah heard the whisper, he knew this was God. How did he know God was in the whisper and not in the other signs? I think it was because he had spent enough time with God to **recognize His voice** amidst other sounds. These days, I'm finding a growing longing to hear God's voice clearly. I wonder if I have spent enough time listening to Him so I can quickly recognize His voice among many other sounds?

**How are the kids doing through this transition time?** The principal of the school where Adam and Andrew attend recently wrote this, *"I know from my perspective, the boys have fit in faster and easier than any new students I have witnessed. They have been a HUGE blessing to us."* Truly **all three kids** are loving their schools and friends and life in America. Praise the Lord and thank you for your prayers!



Alyssa (8), Adam (13) & Andrew (11)



Preaching in Dar in September

## Recent and future work for Eric

By the grace of God and according to His calling, I am **continuing in my work of training African pastors** (such as the trip I made for two weeks in September). Ten days ago I was in Iowa meeting with our ReachGlobal pastoral training team,

and I was **invited to be a part of this team** until we return to Africa.

They focus in two desperately needed and significant areas:

1. Offering biblical training to national pastors globally in countries where there is the greatest need (Africa, India, SE Asia, et al).
2. Equipping and mobilizing US pastors to partner with and train communities of national pastors overseas so that this equipping ministry can multiply globally. Please let me know if your pastor might be interested in hearing more.



Training pastors in September

With kids from another church outside Dar



The day after Thanksgiving I will be traveling to East Africa again for nearly **four weeks to train pastors** in Uganda, Tanzania and possibly Kenya. This will be my longest trip away from the family, but Holly's parents will come to help for a good portion of that time. This time I'll be bringing a good friend, Steve Reid, to give him a firsthand view of the work we do.

If you are interested in seeing brief testimonies from some African pastors, please visit our website ([www.belzglobal.com](http://www.belzglobal.com)).

## What is Dar really like?

Perhaps you have heard about the recent unrest in Dar. It is truly a hub city influencing life through much of East Africa. What you may not know is that Dar es Salaam is the fourth **fastest growing city** in the world, yet it is also in one of the **poorest countries** in world!

Read more online in this article: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-18655647>



## Life lessons from our loving God

While God has us in America, I'm trying to keep my **ears open** for what His "gentle whisper" is teaching me. Here are a couple "growth edges" I'm grappling with:

1. Trust God by **submitting my plans** and agenda and dreams to follow His. I am just a small part of God's wondrous masterpiece, and He can use us however He pleases. (Is.64:8; Rom.9:21)
2. As important and exciting as the work of training Africans is, I must **prioritize ministry to my family**. I am the only husband and father my family has. This happens as I am sensitive to and affirm the **feelings and needs of others**, to what they are saying and not saying. When I do this, the long-term benefit is even more significant than I can imagine. For example, pastors in Africa regularly ignore and neglect their family's needs. Now they are watching my example and are asking questions about how they should be loving their wives. (Matt.19:6; Eph.5:25ff, 1 Cor.7:33)

## Please Pray

We are sincerely asking you to join us in prayer for **how soon to return to Africa**. Our hearts are there, but rushing back in our time instead of God's time will be neither wise nor honoring to Him. Please **pray for complete healing for Holly** so we can re-engage at 100%.

Friends, we are **deeply grateful** as you continue to stand with us. As always, I'm happy to dialogue more with you. Please let me know how I can **pray for YOU**.

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## Pressing on by God's grace,

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

