



Dear family and friends,

In Acts 16, Paul tried repeatedly to proceed with his missionary endeavors through Asia Minor. However, *"the Spirit of Jesus would not allow it."* I imagine that time must have been frustrating for Paul. Yet as we know in retrospect, **God had something far greater planned** (Paul taking the Gospel to Europe.) To this point, the Spirit has not allowed us as a family to return to Africa. Yet we know God is in control and will accomplish **His perfect purposes in His time.**

Holly's Progress toward Health

My wife is a **CHAMP!** I am so proud of how hard she is working to get healthy. She's on a regimented nutritional and supplement plan, she is establishing healthy margins and boundaries, she is reducing stress and stimuli in her life, and she is turning to and trusting in the Lord to a degree she never has before. Last week we received very **encouraging results** of lab work that showed the chemicals in her body related to adrenal functioning (cortisol, estrogen, human growth hormone) have **DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED** from last April. **All praise to God!!** (If you are interested in more details, visit the blog entry at www.belzglobal.com).



However, there are some other indicators that she still has a **ways to go in regaining her energy** and stamina, and recovering from high levels of **mental and emotional stress**. We are very thankful for the little community of Richvale where God has us, and it will be vitally important for us to **continue on this track toward full recovery** for us all (**Andrew is also continuing to grow healthier** following his long struggle with GI issues.) We realize that for us to make a premature return back to Africa before Holly is fully healthy is not wise.



Allie's first time
"horsing around"

Therefore, in consultation with ReachGlobal leadership, we have decided we need to **remain in America for the next several months**, and we have high hopes that by **early summer** the family will be ready to **return to Dar** (if God wills). **Please join us in praying to this end.** This also works well with



Boys hike up Feather Falls

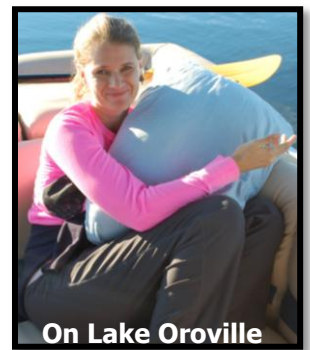
the kids schooling and gives us a chance to prepare for the transition back to long-term service in Africa. We and ReachGlobal leadership believe that **as we prioritize the health of our family, we will be far more effective long term.** Friends, I see this as a great opportunity from the Lord to learn from Him and continue in ministry, first to family and then to training pastors globally.

If you are interested in more details from the ReachGlobal side, I encourage you to follow up with our international leader for Africa, Kevin Kompelien. He is happy to talk with you. Please email him to set up a time: Kevin.Kompelien@efca.org If you don't have email, you can try to reach him at: 408-644-0985.



Note from Holly

"This journey I have been on the last several months has been like a **re-booting of my system after a crash**, not only physically, but mentally and spiritually also. As I was reflecting, I realized this is a good time to start over in where my priorities are. Each day as I have strength and am able to do small things I try to focus on **doing it heartily as to the Lord**. I have reflected how so much of what I did before was just doing and not really dedicated to God. **I thank God** for each step He gives me toward health each day."



So what will Eric be doing?

Certainly my first priority is the **care of my family**. Beyond this, I will continue to fulfill my calling of **equipping pastors globally** to "study God's Word, obey God's Word, and teach God's Word." (Ezra 7:10) I will be making **trips every 2-3 months overseas** to conduct trainings, and in between I will continue communicating with and actively **coaching African leaders** in biblical and ministry areas.

Please PRAY for my upcoming trip to East Africa where I will be conducting several trainings for African pastors and leaders in **Uganda and Tanzania Nov.23-Dec.17**.

In addition, I've been asked to function as a "West Coast representative" with our ReachGlobal pastoral training team to **equip and mobilize pastors in the US** to partner with and train communities of pastors in Africa and other places around the world.



Much appreciation

We are so very grateful for your **continuing support** of our family and our work in East Africa. As always, I'm happy to dialogue more with you, as you wish. From our family, we wish you a delightful and **Christ-centered holiday season** as we celebrate our Lord who is our reason for joy.

Pressing on by God's grace,

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

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