

2025 Annual Report for Eric and Holly Belz
Director of Pathways Bible Training for Africa and Unreached Peoples (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: As our kids move into adulthood, Holly and I are thankful they are all actively walking with Christ and serving Him in various ways. Adam and Sofia are living abroad, serving as missionaries with Reaching and Teaching, and will be moving to Malaysia this year with their daughter Joanna. Andrew got engaged to Ivy Jo a few days ago, they are both actively involved in our home church, and he is continuing his real estate career. Alyssa graduated in May from Liberty University and took mission trips after that, most notably for three months in Malaysia. She will remain in Kentucky for the next several months, working and beginning graduate school toward serving long term in missions.

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, live, and teach/preach God's Word well, equipping them to pass this training on to others. I equip US pastors to assist in this work, I serve on our curriculum revision team, and I preach in stateside churches when invited. I am also developing curriculum toward equipping global pastors to reach their unreached neighbors with the Gospel, and I am developing an oral-oriented version of our Pathways Bible Training curriculum.

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 utilizes these connections to mobilize prayer initiatives. She educates people (both inside and outside our mission org) about prayer needs.

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

In the past year I trained pastors in Kenya, Nigeria, Burundi, Tokyo, Indonesia, Rwanda, Liberia, Malawi, and Mozambique. Generally, I travel to Africa (or somewhere internationally) every month to train networks of pastors. All of this is in addition to training stateside pastors in several locations, working with our curriculum revision team, and serving in our local church. In 2026 I anticipate continuing to train in Africa as well as working in several other global locations focusing on equipping indigenous leaders to minister to unreached people groups.

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 delights in praying with various leaders from church mission teams as well as through social media connections. She also has worked to connect with support team members and supporting churches.
- Pastors in our Africa Pathways networks are growing in their Bible study skills, multiplying the trainings, graduating from our program (Kenya, Rwanda, Liberia, and Malawi this year,) 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. I have also enjoyed working this year with a partner organization, Tyrannus Bible School, to equip church planters who are being sent to unreached parts of Africa. I anticipate continuing and increasing this focus in 2026 to places like Tanzania, Kenya, Senegal, and Burkina Faso.
- 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.
- I am excited about our growing team focused on Pathways in Africa. I now have three team members, retired pastors who are part of our mission and are committed to multiple trips each year to train pastors in Africa. Praise God!
- 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. We are working on developing an oral oriented version of Pathways which is desperately needed globally, especially in Africa. I am also encouraged by progress in developing follow up training for our Pathways graduates who are ministering in unreached areas of the world.

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. Each year I am struck with 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 are reproducible and sustainable which 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. I just spent two weeks in a refugee camp filled with South Sudanese and many other nations and the needs are beyond belief, so please pray for wisdom.
- We have many training requests, but to launch networks I need teams of qualified stateside pastors to serve as trainers, going once a year to offer one of our workshops. 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. Please pray for her health issues which have been a significant challenge in this past year.

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

We have graduated networks in Rwanda, Malawi, Liberia, and southern Kenya this year, and therefore we have capacity to launch new networks in Mozambique, western Kenya, Cameroon, Liberia, and equip church planters through Tyrannus in Tanzania, coastal Kenya, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Burundi, and other locations. We hope to partner with a newly forming Pathways network in Egypt, continue training a network in Nigeria, and I will also most likely train pastors in South and Southeast Asia. I will also be training networks of stateside pastors in various parts of the U.S. I will continue developing our oral version of Pathways, develop a follow up training to Pathways designed for those ministering to unreached people groups, and continue serving on our Pathways leadership team with curriculum revisions. I will continue to preach domestically as opportunities arise.

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 expanding work in Africa and globally (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, three 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, just a week ago I was in northern Kenya in a refugee camp with so many needs – we must fully fund any work in this region since the refugees have nothing. 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. The result impacts us financially, but this is not new 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 contributions from our supporters.

3) As pathways continues to grow and spread, I am praying toward God's provision of qualified, committed, Africa-based ministry partners who will oversee regions of Pathways training on the continent. For this to move forward, I will need to raise more funds to provide for their transportation and training expenses as I empower and release them to expand our ministry beyond what I and my team can do. An example of this is Pastor Silas, a Kenyan ministry leader, who recently joined me for my 2.5 week trip throughout Kenya. I needed to cover all his transport, food, lodging, and our training expenses throughout the trip.

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, live, 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. Countries in Africa where we have equipped leaders, oftentimes in several locations, include: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Rwanda, DR Congo, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, CAR, Nigeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, S. Sudan, Mozambique, Benin, Burundi, and South Africa.
- For Eric, please pray for wisdom as I seek to select networks and locations where we will train, establishing strong and healthy relationships with local coordinators, and managing expectations and requirements for networks to proceed in healthy, productive ways. 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 for our Pathways leadership team as we improve our curriculum, and particularly as we try to develop an oral-oriented version of our training material, and as I develop training for those ministering to unreached peoples. 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. Also, please pray for her health issues which seem to be developing over the past year. We are not sure which course of intervention to seek, so pray for God's healing hand upon her.

Submitted with appreciation for our supporters and gratitude to our awesome God.

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"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

-Philippians 1:3-5

Thank you for your faithful partnership!

