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JUNE 2013

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; . . .” 1 John 2:1

Dear Friends,

How can we know when we've said what truly needs to be said? In reality, we can't always know, but sometimes our Heavenly Father confirms our words for us. Read on for the whole story....

While together in Montevideo, Uruguay for the Primera Cumbre de Líderes (*First Summit of Leaders*) of the Federación Inter Americana de Juristas Cristianos (FIAJC), I encouraged those gathered to remember that, as Christian lawyers and advocates, we are doubly Christ-like. First, like all believers, we are followers of Christ, or “little Christs.” Second, since His ascension 2000 years ago, Jesus has been our advocate before the Father, just as we represent our clients before judges. Thankfully, as our Advocate, Christ writes his brief for us in his own blood, and takes the punishment that we deserve, something we cannot provide for our own clients. Thus, I reminded them, there is no higher calling.



After 36 hours in Montevideo, we crossed the Rio de la Plata to Buenos Aires, Argentina for the 10th Advocates Latin America Conference (CLAC). When I saw a copy of *El Salmo del Abogado*, or *The Lawyer's Psalm*, in the welcome materials, God confirmed what He had led me to share in Uruguay. The first line of *El Salmo del Abogado*: “The Lord is my Lawyer.” We've enclosed with this letter a copy of the Lawyer's Psalm, along with a photo of the conference delegates.

At the First Summit of Leaders, FIAJC became a legal entity under Uruguayan law, which now provides FIAJC standing to appear before international and national agencies. A new Consejo Directivo, or board of directors, was elected to lead FIAJC for the next 2 years. Please join with us in praying for the new President, Xavier Velez (Ecuador); Secretary, Bettina Chamorro (Paraguay); Treasurer, Lorenzo Hernandez (Guatemala); and Represente Legal, Maria Gianella Aloise (Uruguay); along with the Consejo Fiscal Members: Rodolfo Juarez (Cuba), Ivette Montes (Puerto Rico) and Uziel Santana (Brazil), as they lead the region.

Hosted by the Argentine Christian Lawyers Association (AAAC), the CLAC included top notch speakers who led excellent legal workshops: “Christian Justice as a response to globalization;” “Policy on Drugs in Latin America;” “Christian Justice as a response to the problem of the crime;” and “Christian Justice as a response to family violence;” among others. We also had a great time of fellowship, breaking bread together at meals and celebrating a Night of Latin American Culture, including some tango. Muchas gracias to AAAC for their efforts.

Nina Balmaceda, one of the three FIAJC Global Council Representatives, summed up our time together best: "The Lord gave us a time of mutual edification, friendship, learning, and we hope you all went home with a vision and renewed energy to continue working for peace, justice and abundant life for everyone in our communities and countries." Thanks to generous support from several of our donors, Advocates provided scholarship support for each country delegation.

My next travel for Advocates takes me to Africa in August. First to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where I will meet with the Ethiopian Christian Lawyers Fellowship (ECLF) and speak at an international legal aid conference co-sponsored by ECLF and the Supreme Court of Ethiopia. Then, it's off to Kampala, Uganda for the 10th Advocates Africa (AA) Regional Conference, co-hosted this year by two country fellowships—UCLF (English speaking) and Lawyers for Hope, Rwanda (French speaking). As we know all too well, putting on a conference is NOT an inexpensive endeavor, and our friends from UCLF ask for prayers that the Lord will supply what they need to meet budgeted expenses. Pray also for the final planning of the agenda, which aims to include workshops and plenary speakers in both French and English to better serve the entire continent.

Speaking of Africa, we received encouraging news from the DRC (Congo) where the Christian Lawyer Associations in Beni, Butembo and Bunia held their third lawyers conference at the Université Chrétienne Bilingue du Congo in Beni. CLS lawyer, Ben Chappell, who played a key role shared:

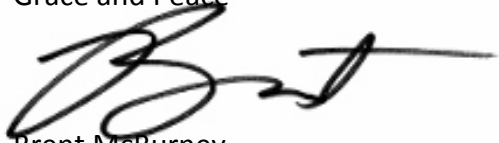
Literally, prisoners are being freed (50 in Bunia alone), Christian lawyers and judges are, in their words, "renouncing corruption" (wonderful testimonies of specific cases) and a whole host of public forums teaching the Congolese public about the laws (that are on the books to protect them but which the Congolese lawyers say are not well known by the people) are being held.

An AA representative from Uganda participated in the Congo conference and the 3 CLAs of East Congo are now planning to send 7 Congolese lawyers and judges to attend the AA conference in Uganda.

Finally, we are so very grateful for your continued prayers for all of our advocates around the globe. One of the key ways that Advocates continues to make a difference is through financial scholarships that assist key leaders to travel to critical meetings on behalf of AI. Many of our advocates can make a real impact on very limited budgets, but our financial help makes a difference. Please prayerfully consider a special gift today that will help our advocates to make that impact from country to country tomorrow, so that those whom they help might also know the Lord as their lawyer.

May the Lord bless and keep you in His perfect. . .

Grace and Peace



Brent McBurney
President & CEO



X CLAC
Federación Inter Americana de Juristas Cristianos

17 - 19 Mayo 2013
Buenos Aires, Argentina

EL SALMO DEL ABOGADO

El Señor es mi abogado; ningún juicio perderé.
En juzgados de delicada jurisprudencia hará recaer mis causas;
Junto a jueces probos me pastoreará.
Confortará me alma de letrado;
Me guiará por los pasillos de tribunales
Por amor de la justicia.
Aunque ande en audiencia donde todo me parezca adverso,
No temeré chicana alguna de la parte contraria, porque tú estarás conmigo;
Tu código y tu ley me infundirán aliento.
Preparas me escritorio delante de mí en presencia de mis clientes;
Derramas sobre me cabeza tu sabiduría; mi archivo está rebosando de carpetas.
Ciertamente el éxito y el reconocimiento me seguirán todos los días de mi profesión,
Y en la Casa de Justicia estaré por siempre.

THE LAWYER'S PSALM

The Lord is my lawyer; I will not lose any trials.
In the courts of delicate jurisprudence He will be my cause;
He leads me beside honest judges.
He restores my soul of counsel;
He will guide me through the corridors of the courts
For the love of justice.
Even though I walk through an audience where everything seems adverse to me
I will not be afraid of any trap of the opposing counsel, because You are with me;
Your code and your law, they comfort me.
You prepare my desk before me in the presence of my clients;
You spill your wisdom over my head; my archives are full.
Surely success and recognition shall follow me all the days of my practice,
And in the House of Justice I will dwell forever.

