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**“Precious in the sight of the LORD, is the death of his faithful servants.” - Psalm 116:15**

**“Why is it that, when we are given a commission by a worldly king, we regard it as an honour  
but when we are given a commission by the Heavenly King, we regard it as a sacrifice?”**

**– Dr. David Livingstone, Scottish missionary and African Explorer**

Dear Friends,

August was a month of great news and other news. First the other news: In May, Advocates Latin America, aka Federacion Inter Americana de Juristas Cristianos (FIAJC), elected a new board of directors, including a new President, Xavier Velez from Ecuador. At the end of July, we received news that Xavier had a heart attack and was hospitalized. Prayer alerts were shared and for some time, it appeared that Xavier was slowly recovering. Sadly, on August 10, following a relapse of kidney failure, Xavier had another heart attack and passed into the arms of Jesus. Please pray with us for his wife Esplendida and their three sons.

Another update that fits the “other news” category: Pastor Saeed Abedini’s appeal in Iran was denied and his eight-year sentence was not reduced. Unfortunately, this outcome is not surprising and it clearly demonstrates Iran’s total disregard for religious freedom. Please pray for the Lord’s intervention and for the safety of Abedini and other believers who are languishing in Iran’s terrible prisons.

### **Gathering the Advocates in Africa**

Now let me share the great news. The 10<sup>th</sup> Advocates Africa Conference in Kampala, Uganda was attended by more than 160 lawyers, judges and other advocates from 16 African countries (only 9 countries in 2011), plus the UK, USA and China. One encouraging outcome was the number of delegates from French-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries, including Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, and Togo. Even more encouraging was the attendance of Benjamin Sogora, the first ever attendee from South Sudan. Please pray with us for the ongoing efforts of Advocates Africa to help Benjamin and his colleagues establish a Christian lawyer fellowship in his country.

Advocates Africa elected a new slate of officers and board members for the upcoming two year term, led by the new President, Mike Chibita (Uganda), an AI Global Council member and a former Justice of the High Court of Uganda. Only a few days after the conclusion of the conference, Mike was appointed as the Director of Public Prosecution for Uganda, a great honor with great responsibilities. Congratulations, Mike. The rest of the board includes Vice-President, Teresa Conradie (South Africa); Treasurer, Jonathan Nahimana (Burundi); Secretary General, Tibebu Gashu

(Ethiopia); and Vice-Secretary, Sunny Akanni (Nigeria). In addition, former AA President Dr. Bankole Sodipo (Nigeria) will replace Justice Rose Mbah Acha on the Global Council. Finally, South Africa was selected as the host country for the 11<sup>th</sup> Advocates Africa Conference in 2015.

**Fighting for Justice in the DRC**

Teresa Conradie challenged the delegates gathered in Kampala with the profound words of Dr. David Livingstone, written at the top of this letter. Many delegates later said they plan to take more seriously their calling as lawyers in service of our Heavenly King.

One in particular is Romeo Asingya, a young lawyer from the DRC. Romeo’s efforts this year on behalf of his community ran into the corruption that is so common in that country. A group of bandits had been robbing people in their village, and when a woman in the community decided to fight back, one of the bandits burned her home and a number of neighboring homes. Romeo and his colleagues brought the case to the courts, and the perpetrator was sentenced to prison.

However, only a few weeks later, the same man was free again in the community, wreaking havoc on innocent people’s lives. When confronted, he simply said that he had been released. It turns out that he was a relative of the mayor of the city, who had simply demanded his release. Romeo and his colleagues were outraged and plan to continue to fight such corruption. Thanks to Teresa’s inspiring message, they realize afresh that they are serving the Heavenly King and consider it an honor to do so. Please pray for Romeo and the other Christian lawyers in DRC as they work hard to establish an atmosphere of integrity among lawyers and judges in their country and fight against corrupt leaders.

Enclosed is our September/October prayer calendar. Please pray also for my upcoming travel this month to Jackson, Mississippi, where I will be the featured speaker at the Mary Libby Payne Lectureship Series at the Mississippi College School of Law. My topic: “What in the World Is Going On? How Christian Lawyers are Transforming the Nations.” Thanks again for your financial support. With expected additional expenses this fall related to personnel transitions, we humbly request your added support.

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

Grace and Peace



Brent McBurney  
President & CEO

PS. Thank you so much for your prayers for the McBurney Family missions trip to the Dominican Republic. We had a tremendous time serving children in Monte Cristi, DR (a country whose education ranks #128 in the world and dead last in the Western hemisphere). My kids are especially ready to keep on serving.



## PRAYER CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2013

### **Mondays: Advocates Africa**

- Praise God for the successful 10<sup>th</sup> AA Conference in Uganda, attended by 160+ delegates from 16 African nations (including South Sudan). Pray for those lawyers in Africa who are facing the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, a particularly challenging issue across the continent.
- Pray especially for the ongoing efforts of **Advocates Africa** to provide representation to and play a key role at the African Union and the African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). Africa is facing new challenges concerning the family, particularly with increased efforts from the west to encourage greater access to abortions and same-sex marriage. Those efforts are focused on change through ACHPR, often with significant financial backing, to enforce new laws from the top down, rather than country by country.
- Please continue to pray for **Advocates Egypt** and all Christians across Egypt during this volatile time.
- Pray with us for safety from the ongoing violence in Nigeria, and the civil unrest in DRC, and Mali, among other countries.

### **Tuesdays: Advocates Asia & Oceania**

- Please pray for **Mark Mudri** and other Christian lawyers in Australia as they are working hard on key issues facing their country in Federal elections in September, including same-sex marriage.
- Please continue to pray for Christians in **Pakistan**. According to all of our sources, the situation there continues to get worse, with increased violence against believers and continued growth in the number of blasphemy cases.
- Please pray for Christians in **Iran**, like Pastor Saeed Abedini and others, who remain in prison for their faith in Jesus Christ. Pastor Abedini's latest appeal was rejected by the higher courts.

### **Wednesdays: Advocates Europe**

- Please pray for the **Christian Lawyers Association of Ukraine** and their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual conference scheduled for October 19-20. They are especially hoping that new active Christian lawyers will join the fellowship.
- Please pray for the **Rule of Law Institute Bulgaria** and **Latcho Popov** involved in three key cases:
  - A Supreme Court case involving church registrations and unnecessary interference with internal church affairs.
  - Both legal and media efforts to force judicial authorities to release an American citizen held in prison beyond his sentence.
  - Efforts to encourage local authorities in Southeast Bulgaria to enforce laws regarding nudity on public beaches, not allowing them to disregard the law and the concerns of citizens.
- Please pray for **Latcho Popov's** role as keynote speaker in November in Belarus. He will be talking about the European Convention on Human Rights and basic freedoms.

## Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)

- Please pray for the Velez family in Guayaquil, Ecuador. “Our dear colleague **Xavier Velez**, President of the **FIAJC** Board of Directors (Advocates Latin America) passed away on August 10, after suffering a heart attack. Pray especially for Xavier’s wife Esplendida, and their three sons, Xavier Alejandro (23 years old), Xavier Andres (16), and Xavier Josué (12). We greatly appreciate your prayers for this beloved family.”
- Please also pray for the **FIAJC** Board of Directors and all of the Christian lawyer fellowships across Latin America as they continue to take steps to be a strong voice throughout the region on behalf of the Body of Christ.

## Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean

- **Christian Legal Fellowship (Canada)** – Please continue to pray for the **CLF** National Conference September 26-29, in Burlington, Ontario (Toronto). Pray for safe travels and great fellowship.
- **Christian Legal Society (USA)** – Pray for the upcoming CLS national conference, October 17-20, in Clearwater, Florida. Pray for the ongoing work of the Center for Law & Religious Freedom and Senior Counsel, Kim Colby, to protect religious freedom on university campuses, Christian employers facing the HHS mandate, and representing Christian non-profit’s targeted by the IRS.
- **Advocates Caribbean** – Please continue to pray for the fellowships throughout the region as they face battles for the sanctity of life and marriage, both of which are under attack.

## Saturdays: Advocates Global Council & Board Members

- **Global Council: Exec. Committee:** Chairman, Min Choon Lee\* (Malaysia); Vice Chair, Teresa Conradie\* (South Africa); Secretary, Gregory Vijayendran (Singapore); Treasurer, Ruth Ross\* (Canada); **Members – Africa:** Dr. Bankole Sodipo (Nigeria) – New member of Council; Judge Mike Chibita (Uganda); **Asia:** Robin David (India); Dongsun Sim (Korea); **Europe:** Latchezar Popov (Bulgaria); Nicolas Duval (France); Mats Tunehag (Sweden); **Latin America:** Gerardo Amarilla (Uruguay); Nina Balmaceda\* (Peru), Daniel Varela (Paraguay); **Middle East:** Botrus Mansour (Israel); **North America/Caribbean:** Justice Alice Soo Hon (Trinidad & Tobago); **Oceania:** Mark Mudri (Australia). \*Also AI board members.
- **AI Board:** Chairwoman, Ruth Ross; Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, Sam Logan; Secretary, Chip Zimmer; Nina Balmaceda, Matt Bristol, Teresa Conradie, Timothy Klenk, Min Choon Lee, Roger Sherrard, and Ken Starr. Pray too for potential new board members.

## Sundays: Advocates Staff & Family

- Please pray for Romi Kobayashi; Brent McBurney, his wife Elizabeth, son Ian and daughter Sarah Louise.