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**“He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8**

Dear Friends,

“Pray for a lawyer? Why on earth would anyone do that? Aren’t lawyers just a bunch of dishonest crooks, out to fleece their clients?” Unfortunately, that is often the response I get when I ask people if they pray for lawyers. Thankfully, I know that you are not among those who think like that and that we can count on your prayers for our advocates around the world.

Some of our advocates are facing dangerous situations. For others, the challenges are not violent, yet they are still cultural battles. All of them need our prayers more than ever.

Courage in the midst of violence

September was another violent month. In Pakistan, a devastating suicide bombing of a church in Peshawar killed almost 100 and injured hundreds more. In Nigeria in the past two weeks alone, Boko Haram gunmen attacked and massacred dozens of college students as they slept in their dormitories and in a separate incident, dozens of children were burned alive and shot to death at a private boarding school. In Nairobi, Kenya, Islamist militants from Somalia attacked innocent civilians at the Westgate mall, allegedly targeting non-muslims as they killed almost 70, with another 39 bodies still missing. In India, Christians remain the targets of radical Hindu extremists. Egypt remains volatile, along with much of the Middle East and North Africa.

Christian lawyers and advocates in those countries and others remain on the front lines, seeking ways through the law to better protect Christians and bring about peaceful resolutions to the problems they face. Advocates Pakistan, CLAAS, CLAP, LEAD and others are pressing for the rights of Christians and defending those accused of blasphemy. CLASFON lawyers are actively engaged across Nigeria, fighting for believers. KCLF lawyers continue to serve the needy across Kenya. CLA lawyers in India remain committed to fighting the unjust anti-conversion laws and helping prosecutors to bring to justice those who have perpetrated violence against innocent believers. Advocates Egypt’s lawyers remain vigilant, yet wary, with the uncertainty they face. Please remember to pray for them.

Courage in cultural battles

Enclosed is Latcho Popov’s annual report for Advocates Europe. As you will read, Latcho and our colleagues in Europe continue to make a significant difference in their countries, especially in the battle for religious freedom. Believers in Belarus continue to face severe laws and governmental pressure through registration requirements. Bulgaria’s laws on church registration continue to cause problems. These are among the challenges that advocates in Europe are facing.

Our colleagues in the UK continue to see increasing challenges for the basic rights of believers. Christian Concern represents pastors arrested for preaching on the streets, as well as ordinary Christians who have lost their jobs. In Darmstadt, Germany, the Wunderlich family had their children forcibly removed from their home in August by government officials who were enforcing that country's strict anti-homeschooling laws. Thankfully, after a hearing last month, the children were returned to their parents, but only on the condition that they are sent to a state school.

The response to these challenges across Europe is gaining strength as more and more Christian lawyers and advocates are joining together. The **Christian Lawyers Association of Ukraine** holds its annual conference this month and could see as many as 250 attend. **Christ und Jurist** in Germany is a growing fellowship and they will be hosting the next Global Council meeting in May 2014. New fellowships are being formed in Scandinavia, and the fellowship of lawyers in Spain begins to thrive. Please remember all of these in your prayers in the coming months.

Courage to change a country


Advocates continues to invest in Albania and its judiciary. This month we will be hosting a delegation led by Chief Justice Xhezair (pronounced "Jezir") Zaganjori and five other justices of the Albanian Supreme Court. The delegation begins its visit to the USA in Washington, DC where they will attend hearings at the U.S. Supreme Court and meetings at the State Department and Administrative Office of U.S. Courts. Next, the delegation travels to Washington state where they will meet with state judicial officials and will be hosted by AI board member Roger Sherrard, who has been to Albania over 50 times. Before heading home, the delegation will stop in Minneapolis, Minnesota where they will be hosted by U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson and meet with both Federal and state judicial officials.

Advocates has played a significant role over the past 20 years in helping the judiciary of Albania to attain a semblance of independence, and we intend to continue helping them until their judiciary is truly independent of the political struggles they continue to face. We know that it is only through an honest and independent judiciary that real change can take root in that nation. Thanks for praying for the delegation's visit and AI's ongoing efforts in Albania.

We are grateful for your prayers for lawyers and for your continued financial support. We expect 2014 to be a year full of exciting challenges and we plan to add to our staff, which will require additional financial support. Thanks again for your support that makes it possible for us to better help advocates around the globe to meet the challenges they are facing.

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

Grace and Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brent McBurney
President & CEO



September 2013

Dear Members of Advocates Europe,

Thank you for advancing the Kingdom through our joint efforts! I would like to encourage you and to share with you some of our joint efforts in Europe and the world this past year.

In October 2012, AE Board members Dusan Kostic, Michael Sookias and I visited and spoke at the annual CLS Conference in Colorado Springs. In November our French member of the Board, Nicolas Duval, visited and spoke at the annual Conference of the Ukrainian Christian lawyers.

In Bulgaria during the last year we worked hard on the issues of how to share our faith with others, and how to improve our character to be Christ like. After printing the Peacemaker book and brochure, we also sponsored the book "When Christians Act as Christians: God's Calling For Christ Like Civility," and in April we issued our last brochure titled "49 Qualities of the Christian Character." During our Tuesday gatherings we discussed the topics from the booklet "Your personal encourager" by Selwyn Hughes.

In Germany our group member "Christ und Jurist" translated the Peacemaker book and the Peacemaker brochure and start studying these materials on Peacemaking and Christian mediation.

In March in Bulgaria we brought together over 30 Christian lawyers in a National conference (round table style) to discuss the newest brochure "49 Qualities of the Christian Character" issued by Character First Ministry US.

Immediately before the round table, I co-chaired in Istanbul the Advocates Europe, European Evangelical Alliance and Religious Liberty Partnership joint session for religious liberty experts. The key topic in Europe for the year was the current status of religious liberty in Turkey.

In April, I chaired five seminars of the Global Task Force of AI "Rule of Law and Integrity" during the Global Convocation in Hong Kong, organized by Advocates International and FLAG (Campus Crusade), with a title "Transforming the World Through Faith and Law."

In May, Christ und Jurist (Germany) held a very successful conference for religious liberty. In addition, our German colleagues visited French Christian lawyers and plan another trip to visit the Polish Christian lawyers.

In August, we gave a statement on a new Bulgarian bill which proposes new changes in the Law on Religion. Specifically, the bill's focal point is on church properties and property restitution. The vote on its admission is pending in Parliament.

AE has a new project linked with Religious freedom in Belarus. Sergei and Dina Shautsou are especially active with this project. I will travel to Belarus in November 2013 to speak on the Practice of the European Courts for the limitations of Religious freedom related to Article 9 (2) and Art. 10(2) of the ECHR.

Doing Justice with Compassion

In September, through the assistance of Brent McBurney, President of AI, AE established new contacts in the Scandinavian countries and Italy.

The next eight months, the European Christian lawyers will be engaged in the following spiritual battles:

1. October Conference for the Ukrainian Christian lawyers and their need for new active lawyers.
2. November conference in Belarus.
3. Three legal cases in Bulgaria:
 - Helping an American prisoner who the Bulgarian justice authorities kept in prison beyond his required term of imprisonment.
 - Persuading the Supreme Court of Bulgaria to rule on a major violation of religious freedom. The courts have consistently denied registration to a church in Bulgaria, claiming that the church activities may be against Bulgarian public policy interest, and even unnecessarily interfering into the internal affairs of the church.
 - Battling the Mayor of one of Bulgaria's largest cities at the coast -Burgas, who is responsible for allowing local authorities to not enforce existing restrictions banning nudists from visiting public beaches.

Rule of law Institute cooperation and partnership with "Saint Triveli" University (STU) in Bulgaria

4. In January 2014, I travel to Spain to encourage, speak, and equip the recently established group of Christian lawyers.
5. In March 2014, the European Religious Liberty Forum is scheduled to take place in Barcelona and I plan to co-chair, encourage, and equip the religious liberty experts from Europe and US.
6. In May 2014, Advocates Europe in co-partnership with Christ und Jurist, will be hosting the annual meeting of the Global Council of AI in Munich.
7. We are working out plans with German lawyers on partnering with governments across Europe to unite forces on battling the human trafficking from East to West.
8. The refugees in Bulgaria and in Europe coming on a daily basis from Syria are an issue of work for our lawyers, as well.

Thank you very much for being so faithful in your support to our commitment in Europe and beyond! We greatly appreciate your prayers.

Wish you and your family a BIG blessing!

Yours in Him,

Latcho