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“Get up,” the angel said to Joseph. “Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” Matthew 2:13

Dear Friends,

Christmas can be a joyful time. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. For many, spending time with family and friends is a blessing, sharing our lives with one another. We exchange gifts, sing carols, and enjoy other traditions, such as wishing others a “Merry Christmas!”

For many of our advocates, however, Christmas is a much different experience. Some live in countries where persecution is a daily occurrence. They take risks to represent fellow believers who have been accused, or even attacked. For them, Christmas may just be another day living in fear, not unlike that faced by the Holy family when they fled to Egypt. Today, many in Egypt are fleeing, and in other countries, wishing someone a “Merry Christmas” is downright dangerous.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Advocates as we remain committed to our mission of encouraging, enabling and equipping advocates around the globe to meet locally, organize nationally, cooperate regionally and link globally to promote religious freedom, justice for the poor, rule of law, human life & dignity, peace & reconciliation, family & community and ethical integrity. Your prayers and support make all the difference.

Enclosed is our **December Prayer Calendar** that lists the specific prayer requests from our regional leaders listing their needs and vision for 2014. Please pray each day with us as we cover the world from Advocates Africa on Mondays to Advocates Asia & Oceania on Tuesdays; from Advocates Europe on Wednesdays to Advocates Latin America (FIAJC) on Thursdays to Advocates North America and Caribbean on Fridays. As we know, “the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” (James 5:16)

Finally, I’d like to remind you about our **\$25,000** challenge gift. If you have **never** financially supported Advocates or have **not given since 2010**, we invite you to join our team and double your gift between now and the end of the year. Historically, we receive about one third of our entire budget through year-end giving, so we appreciate your prayerful consideration of financial support. We are incredibly grateful for that support and wish you and your family a safe and very Merry Christmas!

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

Grace and Peace



Brent McBurney
President & CEO



PRAYER CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2013

Mondays: Advocates Africa

- Please continue to pray for **Advocates Africa's** representation at the African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). The next Ordinary session is scheduled for 28 April – 12 May 2014. AA's General Assembly agreed at its last meeting to address the going battle on in our continent in the area of the family (notably with the west trying to exert an influence in the areas of greater access to abortion and the issue of the same sex marriage.)
- Please pray in particular for North Africa and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, that is spilling over into other regions and countries in Africa. This is becoming a very challenging issue for us as African Christian Lawyers. Be in prayer for protection and for safety for all those involved in the fight for religious freedom in Africa.
- South Sudan sent its first attendee to the AA 2013 Conference. Please pray for our Sudanese brother, Benjamin Sogora, as he tries to establish a Christian Lawyer Fellowship in this country.
- Praise the Lord that the US State Department has finally designated Boko Haram as a "Foreign Terrorist Organization," which can help in the battle to stop their violence. Please continue to pray for the safety of believers in Nigeria and surrounding countries who are under the gun.

Tuesdays: Advocates Asia & Oceania

- Please pray for the **Christian Legal Association's (India)** legal team representing seven Christians incorrectly sentenced to 14 years in prison for allegedly being involved in the 2008 murder of Hindu leader that triggered widespread anti-Christian violence in Orissa. According to CLA team, the trial was a mockery of justice, and a group of Maoist claimed responsibility for the murder.
- Please pray for the **Advocates Asia** board in planning for the 12th AA Conference. Location and dates have not yet been set.
- Please pray for our colleagues in Australia as they face greater challenges across their country in the growing battles for life, marriage and religious freedom.

Wednesdays: Advocates Europe

- In January 2014, **Latcho Popov** travels to Spain to encourage, speak, and equip the recently established group of Christian lawyers.
- In March 2014, the **European Religious Liberty Forum** is scheduled to take place in Barcelona and Latcho will co-chair, encourage, and equip the religious liberty experts from Europe and US.
- 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.
- Advocates Europe is working out plans with German lawyers on partnering with governments across Europe to unite forces on battling the human trafficking from East to West.
- The refugees in Bulgaria and in Europe coming on a daily basis from Syria are an issue of work for Bulgaria's Christian lawyers.

Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)

- Please pray for God's direction as **FIAJC** members are getting ready to elect the new FIAJC President. May the Lord raise someone who is willing to dedicate the necessary time and energy to assume this great responsibility and has a broad perspective on the many important challenge that we face in Latin America.
- Please pray for God's provision to carry out the important projects we would like to develop in Latin America.
- Please continue to pray for our dear sister Esplendida Navarrete and her sons, who appreciate our prayers for consolation, strength and provision from God now that Xavier Velez was promoted to Glory.

Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean

- **Christian Legal Fellowship** in Canada is searching for a new Executive Director. AI Global Council member and AI Board Chair, Ruth Ross, is serving as the Interim ED during the search. Please continue to pray with us for the Lord to raise up the right leader for CLF.
- **Christian Legal Society** asks us to pray that they continue to grow in chapters and clinics, that the Lord give them wisdom to deal with the religious liberty issues, and that they glorify the Lord in the legal profession.
- **Advocates Caribbean** is planning for its bi-annual conference in 2014. The location and dates have not yet been set.

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); At-Large, Latchezar Popov (Bulgaria); At-Large, Mats Tunehag (Sweden); **Members – Africa:** Dr. Bankole Sodipo (Nigeria); Mike Chibita (Uganda); **Asia:** Robin David (India); Dongsu 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, Adèle Auxier Keim, Timothy Klenk, Min Choon Lee, Peter Rathbun, Roger Sherrard, and Ken Starr

Sundays: Advocates Staff & Family

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