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**"Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
– 2 Timothy 3:12**

Dear Friends,

Did you know that hosting a Bible study in your own home is illegal in Turkey? Or that new converts to faith in Christ who are seeking asylum in certain European countries are asked if they know "how to cook a turkey for Christmas?" Or "what are the names of the three Magi?" Or "what is Jesus' surname?" These were just a few of the issues discussed at the 12th European Religious Liberty Forum (ERLF) in Barcelona last month.

Religious Liberty in Europe

Under the tremendous leadership of Latcho Popov and Julia Doxat-Purser, the ERLF brought together 20 religious liberty advocates from across Europe, from the UK to Georgia and Sweden to Turkey, and everywhere in between. Thank you so much for your prayers. Our discussions were encouraging and very fruitful. And a special thanks to the gift of one friend, Advocates was able to sponsor the representatives from Georgia and Turkey.

Please pray for the efforts of our colleagues from the ERLF who are working to stop a new Council of Europe (47 nations) report on "the protection of minors against excesses of sects." If adopted, the proposed measures will lead to violations of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; and the right to education and the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

We also learned last week from Advocates Greece that the country is currently trying to rush through a new law that could require certain minority churches and other religions to "re-register." The ultimate outcome, good or bad, is still in the air and your prayers for the Church in Greece are greatly needed.

Religious Liberty in Brazil

In Brazil, our friends of ANAJURE hosted a series of seminars on "liberdade religiosa." Meeting in four different cities during the middle of March, Uziel Santana and his ANAJURE colleagues brought together experts on religious liberty with all three branches of the Brazilian government: Executive, Legislative and Judicial. What great encouragement to see how God is using Christian lawyers to influence their country for good. Please continue to pray for Uziel and all of our Brazilian advocates taking these issues head on. Attached with this letter is the ANAJURE report of the March meetings.

FIAJC Leadership Team

Other encouraging news from Latin America happened in March. After several months of waiting, the Federacion Inter-Americano de Juristas Cristianos (FIAJC) was finally approved by the Uruguayan government as an International NGO. In addition, following the untimely death last summer of then-newly-elected President, Xavier Velez, FIAJC elected a new board of directors: Nina Balmaceda (Peru), President; Lorenzo Hernandez (Guatemala), Treasurer; Insituto Juridico Cristiano (Christian Legal Institute) Uruguay to appoint representative to serve as Secretary; Gianella Aloise (Uruguay), Legal Representative before Oriental Republic of Uruguay (where FIAJC recognized as Int'l NGO). Deliberative Council: Lidia Garcia Torralba (Argentina), President; Elizabeth de Larios (Guatemala), Secretary.

Please continue to keep all of the new leadership team of Advocates Latin America in your prayers. They are facing several new and unexpected challenges concerning religious liberty in several countries, including Bolivia, Brazil and Peru (registration requirements), and Argentina (anti-sect laws). There is a trend in Latin America, bringing together some odd bedfellows (far left academics and some ultra conservative fringe elements in the Catholic Church) who want to restrict the space available to religious groups, specifically targeting 'new' groups, especially Protestant evangelicals, as much as possible. In addition, there is legislation in place in Ecuador that has the potential to really restrict public expressions of faith.

Religious Liberty Partnership

I was honored to be appointed to the Leadership Team of the Religious Liberty Partnership (RLP), of which AI is a charter member. During the annual RLP Consultation in Ottawa, Ontario, the members of the RLP came together to further strengthen the efforts of ministry for the persecuted church around the globe. It is always a blessing to come together with brothers and sisters who serve on the front lines of this important ministry to God's people.


As a reminder, this month I travel to South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique, where I will meet and encourage lawyers from our fellowships in those nations. I will also attend the annual meeting of the Global Kingdom Partnerships Network Marketplace Initiative, made up of Christian business leaders from across the globe.

In May, the Global Council meets in Munich in conjunction with the *Christ und Jurist* 2014 Congress. The theme of the *Christ und Jurist* Congress is "Truth," and we will explore that concept from legal, philosophical and theological perspectives. Please pray with us that all those who need to join us in Munich for these discussions on Truth will be there.

Religious liberty around the world remains at the heart of what Advocates is about and we thank you for your continued prayers and financial support that enable us to play an active role in the ongoing battles.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO



PRAYER CALENDAR – APRIL/MAY 2014

Mondays: Advocates Africa

- Please pray for the Christian lawyer fellowships in **The Gambia** (reaching students and young lawyers); **Lawyers of Hope Rwanda** (preparing for 100 days mourning on 20th anniversary of genocide-April 1994); **Advocates Egypt** (economic situation presents great challenges, need for laptop/video projector to help train); **Liberian Christian Lawyers Network** (reorganization needed); **Mozambican Christian Lawyers Association** (growth of fellowship, praise for opening of new legal aid office); **Togo** (greater commitment from members).
- Please continue to pray for **Advocates Africa's** application for official Observer Status and the delegation attending the African Commission for Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). The next Ordinary session is scheduled for 28 April – 12 May 2014.
- Pray for peace in Central African Republic, Sudan and Nigeria. Praise for rains in Uganda following drought, and visit to East Africa of LCF Exec. Dir. *Mark Barrell* and Justice Cooke from UK.

Tuesdays: Advocates Asia & Oceania

- Please pray for safety for **Nguyen Van Dai** from Vietnam as he is being targeted by the authorities for possible arrest due to his work with students.
- Please continue to pray for Tarigan Saudaranta, Tony Budidjaja and Pat Talbot and the **Indonesian Christian Legal Society** team who will be hosting the 12th Advocates Asia Conference from October 30-November 2 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Global Council member **Mark Mudri** asks for continued prayer for **Australia** for the following: same-sex marriage challenge in the high court; prostitution and euthanasia issues in the state parliament; and wisdom for our advocates who are fighting these battles.
- Please continue to pray for **Min Choon Lee** and his colleagues in Advocates Malaysia following his arrest in January and the ongoing saga for the seized Bibles.

Wednesdays: Advocates Europe

- Please pray for **Vassilios Tsirmpas** and colleagues in Greece as they try to stop a new law requiring most minority churches to "re-register." The law is proposed for a vote the first week of April.
- Please pray for the **Christ und Jurist (Germany)** 2014 Congress in Munich, May 15-18. The AI Global Council and Advocates Europe will also be meeting during this gathering.
- Please continue to pray for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing political crisis in Ukraine. Pray also for advocates of the **Christian Lawyers Association of Ukraine** as they educate pastors and others in ministry on their rights and obligations. Pray too for their efforts to open a new legal training school.
- Praise for very fruitful meeting of the **European Religious Liberty Forum** in Barcelona. Please pray for the continued efforts of our colleagues across Europe, particularly to stop a new law in Council of Europe (47 nations) to regulate "Sects" (which will include many Christian churches).
- Please continue to pray for **Egesu Ozkara**, law student from Turkey, and believers in that country, where it is illegal to hold Bible studies in their own homes.

Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)

- Please continue to pray for God's direction for the newly elected Board of Directors of **FIAJC**: **Nina Balmaceda** (Peru), President; **Lorenzo Hernandez** (Guatemala), Treasurer; **Insituto Juridico Cristiano** (Christian Legal Institute) Uruguay to appoint representative to serve as Secretary; Gianella Aloise (Uruguay), Legal Representative before Oriental Republic of Uruguay (where FIAJC recognized as Int'l NGO). Deliberative Council: **Lidia Garcia Torralba** (Argentina), President; **Elizabeth de Larios** (Guatemala) secretary.
- Please continue to pray for **Uziel Santana** and his colleagues in **ANAJURE** who are advocating for religious liberty across Brazil. Praise God for very fruitful efforts in March at the Supreme Court, and several other venues as over 500 lawyers, judges and law students were trained in religious liberty and human rights seminars. God is doing exciting things in Brazil. Their 2nd Annual National Conference will be in August.

Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean

- **Advocates Caribbean** asks us to join with them in praying for the following:
“In this region the gay rights movement is gaining ground and is being supported by the human rights organizations. Murders and other serious crimes of violence is on the rise, for example, 9 in 10 days. Violence and crimes against children are also increasing. Please remember us in prayer in these areas. We long for the day when we would wake up to no violence.”
- **Christian Legal Society** (USA) asks us to please pray that God’s justice will prevail in the Supreme Court cases *Hobby Lobby* and *Conestoga Wood* regarding the HHS mandate requiring Christian-led companies to provide health care that includes all abortifacient birth control against their religious conscience. The cases were argued on March 25 and ruling is expected before the end of June.
- **Christian Legal Fellowship** in Canada continues its search 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 lift up the right leader for CLF.

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 (South Korea); **Europe:** Nicolas Duval (France); **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; Nina Balmaceda, Matt Bristol, Teresa Conradie, 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.



In Defense of Fundamental Civil Liberties in Brazil, ANAJURE meets week of events and dialogues with the three branches: Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

(March 21th 2014)

This March, the National Association of Evangelical Jurists (ANAJURE) accomplished an important agenda that involved six events with important discussions on religious freedom, which occurred in Brasília-DF, São Paulo-SP, Curitiba-PR and Anápolis-GO. During this period, 11-16 March, ANAJURE also dialogued with the three branches of Brazilian government: Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

ANAJURE started its activities by meeting the Evangelical Parliamentary Front in National Congress, strengthening its technical and legal cooperation, and then promoted the First International Congress on Fundamental Civil Liberties, which occurred at Superior Court of Justice, with the theme 'Religious Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Conscientious Objection ', gathering lawyers and religious leaders from around the country. After this, visiting the Supreme Court, there was a meeting with the Minister Gilmar Mendes. At the Presidential Palace, the association dialogued with Minister Gilberto Carvalho, who represented the President.

The ANAJURE's agenda continued with the completion of the International Seminar at Mackenzie University in São Paulo, where this theme was discussed: 'Religious Freedom as a fundamental human right: report, challenges and theories'. Both the ANAJURE International Congress and the International Seminar at Mackenzie had as speakers Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher (International Institute for Religious Freedom / Germany) and Dr. Jónatas Machado (University of Coimbra, Portugal).

In the same week, ANAJURE promoted discussions at UniEvangélica in PUC / PR (Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná) and Anápolis-GO, in the last 14 and 16th March. The seminar discussed the important theme "Religious freedom in academic community". These moments of debate involved professors, principals, university deans, in order to promote greater enlightenment on the subject.

Throughout the dialogues and meetings, several partnerships with institutions began to be signed, including international institutions, which will be released in the coming months. The schedule of activities developed by ANAJURE, put into practice in the last week can be checked below:

Activity Report from 11th to 16th – ANAJURE

11 March – The ANAJURE board of Directors was invited by the president of the Evangelical Parliamentary Front (EPF), Depute Paulo Freire. The meeting took place at National Congress.

12 March - ANAJURE opened the First International Congress on Civil Liberties at STJ auditorium with the theme 'Freedom of expression and Conscientious Objection'. The event lasted one day and the lectures were given by Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher (International Institute for Religious Freedom / Germany) and Dr. Jonatas Machado (University of Coimbra, Portugal) with the participation of speakers such as Dr. Uziel Santana (ANAJURE's President/ University of Aracaju), among others. The event was attended by approximately 400 registrants.

12 March – ANAJURE and historic churches met the Minister Gilberto Carvalho, who represented the President of the Republic, to talk about the National Plan of Education, Missions between indigenous and Religious Freedom.

12 March - ANAJURE visits the Supreme Court.

13 March - Still with the participation of the two international speakers, Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher and Dr. Jonatas Machado, ANAJURE held, in partnership with Mackenzie University, the I International Seminar to discuss the theme 'Religious Freedom as a fundamental human right: report, challenges and theories'. The event took place at night and also had the participation of Rev. Dr. Augustus Nicodemus (Chancellor of Mackenzie and President of ANAJURE Advisory Council) and Dr. Uziel Santana (ANAJURE's President/ University of Sergipe).

14 March - An open meeting was held with the Committee on Law and Religious Freedom of Brazilian Order of Lawyers (OAB / PR). The theme of the meeting was 'The right to religious freedom in academic community'. The goal is to establish partnerships with the committees on Religious Freedom from others OAB sectional.

14 March - Dr. Jonatas Machado gave a lecture about the 'Right to discuss and investigate the forms of creationism and intelligent design.' The lecture was held overnight at Stadler Newton Souza auditorium, PUC / PR (Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná).

15 March - The ANAJURE's Seminar on Religious Freedom in academic community was held at UniCuritiba, in Curitiba-PR. The event happened with the participation of Dr. Jonatas Machado and with the support of the Religious Liberty Commission from OAB / PR.

16 March - UniEvangélica in Anapolis-GO hosted the Seminar on Religious Freedom in Academic Community. The event had the participation of professors, principals and the Rector of the institution, and aimed to achieve institutional partnerships between the entities involved.