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JUNE 2014

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalms 133:1

“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Acts 13:2

Dear Friends,

Amazing things happen every time God’s people come together in unity. Last month in Munich at the 2014 Conference of *Christ und Jurist* was no exception. When I got word that two of our Global Council members faced challenges receiving their visas, I anticipated something good was going to happen. And I was not disappointed.

Around 200 participants from six continents attended. The attendance of the German and other European colleagues helped shatter our preconceived notions that the Church in Germany, and Europe, is dying. What a great encouragement to see that God is moving amidst the legal profession in a country and continent that many have written off spiritually. The fellowship we shared and the fervor of their faith filled me with a new hope for what God calls Advocates to do.

Unity: A Time of Reconciliation

The day before the conference, those of us from the Global Council who’d arrived broke bread with the Board and Conference leadership team of *Christ und Jurist*. Following dinner, we gathered together for a time of sharing and prayer that helped to knit our hearts together in a profound way.

After some time getting to know one another, one of our German colleagues, Judge Peter Gegenwart, shared that his grandfather served as a judge in the Nazi government and asked for forgiveness for what the German people had done in the past. Several of us, including Teresa Conradie (one of those with visa issues) had grandfathers who fought (and died) against the Germans during WWII. In a sweet time of reconciliation we were able to forgive and ask forgiveness in return. And that was just the beginning.

A Conference of “Truth”

Before the Conference kicked off Friday night, the Global Council held its most fruitful meeting—facilitated by our new Deputy Executive Director, Ruth Ross—since its inception in 2006. We are greatly encouraged by the re-launching of the seven Global Resource Teams, and by the addition of several of our German colleagues who will be serving on several of them.

The conference itself was truly terrific. For starters, the gathering was held in the Kardinal-Wendel-Haus conference center, a haven of rest in the midst of busy Munich. From the opening speakers—including Prof. Dr. Winfried Bausback, the Bavarian Minister of Justice; Pastor

Dr. Johannes Friedrich, former Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Bavaria; and Johannes Singhammer, Vice President of the German Bundestag—to the workshop speakers, worship leaders and time together, we explored the many facets of “Truth” from philosophical, theological and legal angles.

With participants from over 24 countries, and every major denomination, the conference was an ecumenical gathering that helped demonstrate the unity within the Advocates network. Thanks for your prayers for a successful conference.

Set Apart For the Work

In Munich, both the Global Council and the AI Board of Directors formally approved the hiring of Ruth Ross as our new Deputy Executive Director for the Global Council. At the conclusion of worship on Saturday night, we spent time in prayer, commissioning Ruth for her new role, trusting that God has set her apart for the mission ahead. Upon her appointment to the new position, Ruth had this to say:

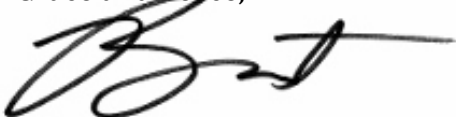
It has been a profound privilege to be part of the Christian lawyer movement for almost fourteen years, first in Canada and more recently, internationally. Having joined the Advocates International Global Council in 2007, it is with great honour and dependence on the Lord that I now take on this new role as Deputy Executive Director. I am fully committed to assisting Brent in effectively and efficiently implementing the vision and mission of the Global Council. I thank God for the ministry of Advocates International, its leadership, and its many supporters and volunteers across the planet who have faithfully stood in solidarity, some for over two decades, in humble surrender to His purposes. Together, with the empowerment and guidance of the Holy Spirit, I believe our greatest days are yet to come. I very much cherish your prayers as we move forward together to answer the call to redeem law and proclaim His justice globally.

I’ve included Ruth’s brief biography so that you can get to know a little bit more about her. Also included with this letter is the **June/July Prayer Calendar**. Please continue to pray with us each month for the specific requests of our colleagues from across the globe. They regularly let us know how grateful they are for your prayers for them.

Thank you again so very much, because without your prayers and financial support we would not be able to encourage and strengthen lawyers in fellowships like *Christ und Jurist* and others. Gathering lawyers from across the globe remains a challenge, but when we are able to come together in unity, as we did in Munich, it is a good and pleasant ministry.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO



Ruth A.M. Ross
Barrister & Solicitor
London, Ontario (Canada)

Deputy Executive Director, Advocates International Global Council

Ministry Highlights: Past Executive Director, Christian Legal Fellowship (Canada); Advocates International Board, Advocates International Global Council, Alliance Defending Freedom Global Council, Boards of Billy Graham Evangelical Association, Samaritan's Purse, Canadian Association of Pregnancy Support Services (Ref. Bd.)

- Ruth has been privileged to be part of Advocates International for well over a decade and joined its Global Council in 2007 and Board in 2008. She has also served on the Advocates North America regional executive.
- Ruth is the immediate past Executive Director of Christian Legal Fellowship (CLF), the largest member association of Christian legal professionals in Canada. The Fellowship has nearly 600 active members from several dozen Christian denominations working together to integrate Christian faith with law.
- Ruth was appointed Executive Director of CLF in October 2000. In 2007, the office of General Legal Counsel was added to her portfolio. In the fall of 2012, Ruth elected to retire from her position as Executive Director and was appointed part-time General Counsel, a position she maintained until March 1, 2013 when she fully retired from CLF. On Nov. 15, 2013, upon the then Executive Director returning to private practice, Ruth was asked by the Board of Directors to resume leadership of the organization and was appointed interim Executive Director until a new search for an Executive Director was finalized on May 14, 2014. Her duties included overseeing court interventions and consultations to government on a wide variety of legal issues from a Christian perspective.
- Ruth was editor of the *Christian Legal Journal (Canada)* for more than twelve years, a quarterly publication of Christian Legal fellowship, addressing the legal issues of the day from a Christian perspective.
- Ruth completed her B.A. and LL.B. from Dalhousie University and has over 20 years of legal experience. She has practiced law in four provinces of Canada and is currently a member of the Ontario Bar. She was admitted to the Law Societies of New Brunswick (1975), Nova Scotia (1979), British Columbia (1983) and Ontario (1985).
- Ruth has been privileged to lecture for lawyers in Africa, South America, Central America, and North America, including the Caribbean, on a broad number of issues including building strategic alliances and influencing advocacy in preservation of life, freedom of religion and the Biblical family.
- Ruth serves on the Advocates International Global Council, Global Advisory Council of Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), the Boards of the Billy Graham Evangelical Association Canada, Samaritan's Purse Canada, and the Canadian Association of Pregnancy Support Services (Reference Board).
- Ruth and her husband (Pat) of thirty-one years reside in London, Ontario where they attend The Gathering Place and Revival Centre and where she and Pat serve as elders. Pat is an international railroad consultant, presently on contract in Colombia, South America.
- Ruth was born in River Hebert East, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, raised in Moncton, New Brunswick, and was exposed to the Gospel at a very early age having attended church regularly in her youth.
- Ruth accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Saviour in 1983 while attending a city-wide outreach in Kamloops, British Columbia after hearing a compelling presentation of the Gospel. Since then, she has continued on a faith journey that has been transformational in every way.
- From 1996-2000, Ruth relocated with her family to Port Hedland, Western Australia where her husband, Pat, continued his work in railroad management. While in the "outback", Ruth was active in ministry-related work with the Christian Revival Churches of Australia.
- From 1993-1996, Ruth served on the Board of Directors of Christian Legal Fellowship (Canada) and was appointed Executive Director in October 2000 (see details above).
- Ruth and Pat enjoy a vibrant family life and together they are blessed with five adult children and five grandchildren.



PRAYER CALENDAR – JUNE/JULY 2014

Mondays: Advocates Africa

- Please continue to pray for an end to ongoing violence in Nigeria (Boko Haram) and Kenya (Al Shabaab).
- Joseph Nassakou of **Advocates Senegal** asks that we please pray for the judgment in case against two Brazilian missionaries in Senegal, José and Zeneide, accused of mistreatment of children and child-trafficking. They were represented in a May 20 hearing by four lawyers from Advocates Senegal.
“At the hearing, which lasted 3 hours, we clearly saw that the accusation had a religious basis because the prosecutor made it clear that the accused were trying to convert Muslim children to Christianity. José and Zeneide’s lawyers insisted on the fact that Senegal has a secular constitution. The judgment will be heard on 17 June, and we ask prayer for our brother and sister, that they would purely and simply remain relaxed.”
- **Emad Felix**, Advocates Africa’s Coordinator for North Africa asks that we please pray for sister Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, convicted of apostasy and sentenced to death in Sudan for marrying a Christian man. Her father, who left the family when she was 6 years old, is Muslim, but her mother is an Ethiopian Christian. Meriam just gave birth to a baby boy on May 27. She refuses to renounce her faith.
- Praise God for a successful regional conference in Central Africa hosted by **Advocates Burundi**, Voice of the Voiceless and ALARM, attended by 45 advocates from 6 countries (Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda).
- Please pray for peace in **Mali, Central African Republic** (recent church attack) and **South Sudan**.

Tuesdays: Advocates Asia & Oceania

- Please continue to pray for Tarigan Saudaranta, Tony Budidjaja and Pat Talbot and the **Indonesian Christian Legal Society** team who will be hosting the 13th Advocates Asia Conference from October 30-November 2 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Advocates Asia board member, Gregory Vijayendran asks: “Let’s believe for much wisdom in organizing and release of God’s resources for the fledgling Christian lawyer group in Indonesia.”
- Please pray for the escalating situation in Pakistan. Christian advocates in Pakistan continue to represent those falsely accused of blasphemy, at risk of their own personal safety. Another human rights advocate was recently gunned down in his law chambers and 68 lawyers were accused of blasphemy.
- Pray with us for believers in North Korea who face increased persecution in response to the UN’s Commission of Inquiry report.

Wednesdays: Advocates Europe

- The **Christian Lawyers Association of Ukraine** asks that we continue to pray with them for stabilization of the political situation in Ukraine. Pray also for their new anti-corruption project.
- Praise God for the fruitful **Christ und Jurist (Germany)** 2014 Congress in Munich, May 15-18. Please pray for all those who attended from across Europe and around the globe, that God will continue to work in their hearts what they learned about Truth.
- Pray for **Latcho Popov** and the entire board of Advocates Europe.

Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)

- **FIAJC** would very much appreciate the support of our AI colleagues around the world for the current situation in Venezuela. Especially please join us in prayers that the violence stops and both the government and the opposition groups find a peaceful and democratic way to get out of this political crisis.
- Please pray for the **FIAJC** leadership and for God's provision for the many needs and ideas they have to make a difference. Pray also that God will raise up a worker for the region to help them follow up on initiatives that are planned.
- Please continue to pray for **ANAJURE** as they advocate for religious liberty across Brazil. Their 2nd Annual National Conference will be August 8-10 in Cuiabá.

Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean

- **Christian Legal Fellowship** in Canada is proud to announce that **Nicola Mulima** is the new Executive Director. Please pray for Nicola as she takes this key leadership position.
- Please pray for the **Advocates Caribbean** conference, **Fundamental Rights And Freedoms—Free Indeed!!** scheduled for November 7-9 in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.
- **Christian Legal Society (USA)** asks us to continue to 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 in March and ruling is expected before the end of June.
- Please pray also that God will help **CLS** find a new Legal Aid Coordinator.

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, Mark Mudri (Australia); At-Large, Latchezar Popov (Bulgaria); At-Large, Mats Tunehag (Sweden); **Members – Africa:** Dr. Bankole Sodipo (Nigeria); Mike Chibita (Uganda); **Asia:** Robin David (India); Dongsub Sim (South Korea); **Europe:** Nicolas Duval (France); **Latin America:** Gerardo Amarilla (Uruguay); Nina Balmaceda* (Peru), Daniel Varela (Paraguay); **Middle East:** vacant (please pray for new representative); **North America/Caribbean:** Justice Alice Soo Hon (Trinidad & Tobago). * Also AI Board Members
- **AI Board:** Chairman, Matt Bristol; Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, Sam Logan; Nina Balmaceda, Teresa Conradie, Timothy Klenk, Min Choon Lee, Peter Rathbun, Roger Sherrard, and Ken Starr.

Sundays: Advocates Staff & Family

Please pray for Romi Kobayashi; Ruth Ross and her husband Pat (currently working in Columbia); and Brent McBurney, his wife Elizabeth, son Ian and daughter Sarah Louise.