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**AUGUST 2014**

**“The mind of man plans his way,  
But the LORD directs his steps.”– Proverbs 16:9**

**Dear Friends,**

Over the past twenty-two years, Advocates International encouraged thousands of lawyers, judges, law students and other advocates in over 150 countries. Christian lawyer fellowships sprang up across the globe and are now evident in 120 countries—some small, some large—all engaged to varying degrees to make society better.

Regional bodies were established, bringing together those fellowships from across continents. Only one of those regions included a fellowship in 100 percent of its countries: Advocates Latin America, aka FIAJC. Currently, however, a small number of fellowships there have disbanded, and the board of the Federacion Inter Americana de Juristas Cristianos (FIAJC) hopes to see a revival across the entire region.

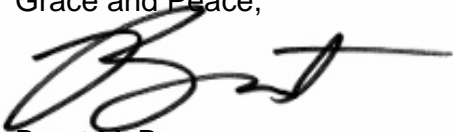
After the untimely passing last summer of their newly elected President, Xavier Velez, FIAJC continues to face unique challenges. Legal challenges they have been tackling in the region include attacks on pro-life laws and traditional marriage. A number of religious liberty issues emerged that surprised us all. Efforts to respond to these laws are ongoing and we are pleased that FIAJC and its members are actively engaged in this battle, particularly in Brazil.

Please pray with us for the work of ANAJURE in Brazil (FIAJC member), along with other fellowships across the region. The FIAJC board will be meeting August 8-11, in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ANAJURE National Conference in Cuiabá, Brazil, and I will be joining them for this key planning meeting. I will also be with Advocates Brazil in São Paulo and Belo Horizonte.

Enclosed with this month's letter is our August/September Prayer Calendar and we invite you to continue to pray along with us for our brothers and sisters around the world. Although summer is often a time of slowing down, there are many plans in the works, and we trust that the Lord will continue to direct our steps. Your prayers and financial gifts remain a crucial part of how God is leading AI.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney  
President and CEO



## PRAYER CALENDAR – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

### **Mondays: Advocates Africa**

- **Emad Felix**, Advocates Africa's Coordinator for North Africa asks that we continue to pray for sister Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, convicted of apostasy and sentenced to death in Sudan for marrying a Christian man. Praise the Lord that the Supreme Court of Sudan overturned her conviction, but the government refuses to allow her to leave the country.
- **Ethiopian Christian Lawyers Fellowship/Advocates Ethiopia** appointed six new board members (out of the total of seven who finished their terms). **Misgana Kifle** asks for prayer for God's grace on the new tasks to be taken and continuing the work already begun.
- Praise God for great news that Advocates Africa's prayer coordinator **Alison Diara** and her family have moved to the UK, and her husband, Japhet, finally received his UK settlement visa.
- Please continue to pray for peace in **Mali, Central African Republic** 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 13<sup>th</sup> Advocates Asia Conference from October 30-November 2 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Please pray for our brothers and sisters at **China Aid** as they work to help free Pastor Zhang Shaojie, sentenced in July to 12 years in prison for "fraud" and "gathering a crowd to disrupt public order." Oddly, Pastor Zhang's church is a government sanctioned church, and the Chinese government has been cracking down organized religion.
- **Christian Legal Association (India)** asks for continuing prayers for increased persecution after the ruling party (BJP) came to power during the last election. The BJP indicates that it plans to pass "anti-conversion" laws on a national level. Some villages in central India recently outlawed the open practice of Christianity.
- **Mark Mudri** asks for continued prayers for Christian lawyers in Australia as they face increasing challenges on life and family. Praise God for a fruitful mission trip to Kenya, Rwanda & Uganda in July by the team from **CLEAR International Australia**.

### **Wednesdays: Advocates Europe**

- **Latcho Popov** writes, "Pray for two cases before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg:
  - Bulgarian State declined Christian NGO with a license for Christian radio program to receive additional license to broadcast in the ether during the past 13 years;
  - Bulgarian Courts declined to register a newly formed Evangelical Denomination."
- In October, Latcho Popov will visit Kherston, Ukraine (near Odessa) to speak at conference of the Christian Lawyers Association of Ukraine to encourage them in redeeming the rule of law, religious freedom and ethics.
- In November, Latcho Popov will speak at conference in Belarus.

## Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)

- **FIAJC** will be holding a regional leaders' summit in the city of Cuiabá, Brazil 8-11 August in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of **ANAJURE** (Brazilian Christian Lawyers Association). Please pray for both meetings.
- At the **FIAJC** sessions, the leaders will be working on strategic planning for the next three years.
- FIAJC President **Nina Balmaceda** indicates that FIAJC “feels a very heavy burden to respond in concrete ways to the increasing expressions of injustice and corruption that prevail in Latin America. Please pray with us that the Lord guides all of our conversations in Cuiaba, and that we can make the best of our time together. Particularly our discussion of FIAJC’s sustainability in the long term.”
- Please also pray for provision for the participants so that several of our leaders can attend this important meeting.

## Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean

- Praise God for answered prayers with a great victory for religious liberty at the Supreme Court in the *Hobby Lobby* and *Conestoga Wood* cases. Please pray for the staff of the **Christian Legal Society** as they prepare for the National Conference, October 2-5, in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Please continue to pray for transition of leadership for the **Christian Legal Fellowship** in Canada and its new Executive Director, **Nicola Mulima**. Pray also for preparation for its upcoming National Conference October 2-5, in Whistler, BC.
- Please continue to pray for the **Advocates Caribbean** conference, **Fundamental Rights And Freedoms—Free Indeed!!** scheduled for November 7-9 in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

## 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 Colombia); and Brent McBurney, his wife Elizabeth, son Ian and daughter Sarah Louise.