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**NOVEMBER 2014**

**“In everything give thanks;  
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”  
1 Thess. 5:18**

**Dear Friends,**

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and there is much to be grateful for here at Advocates International. As Sam used to say, there is “good news and other news.” I’ll share the good news first, then share some disturbing news affecting various Advocates.

### **Giving Thanks for the Good News**

The Indonesian Christian Legal Society (ICLS) and Advocates St. Vincent are each hosting regional Advocates conferences for the first time. And Advocates Belarus will be hosting another Religious Liberty Conference.

First, our friends from ICLS are expecting 175+ attendees at the 13<sup>th</sup> Advocates Asia Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia from October 30 – November 2. Please join with us in praying for safe travels for all the participants and that we will be encouraged and strengthened by the fellowship and learning at this conference about “Integrity with Compassion in Law and Society.” The Jakarta conference features a terrific variety of experts on religious freedom, human trafficking, anti-corruption, human rights, and poverty and economic development, all issues that our Advocates across Asia are facing.

Second, the 4<sup>th</sup> Advocates Caribbean Conference, “Fundamental Rights and Freedoms: Free Indeed,” takes place this year in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, located in the southern Caribbean, from November 7-9. Another amazing slate of speakers will challenge our Advocates from across the region as they delve into the challenges facing their developing democracies, including freedom of expression and freedom of conscience.

Third, Advocates Belarus will be hosting another Religious Liberty Conference, November 20-23 in Minsk, and our own Latcho Popov will be among the presenters. Please pray with us for all three of these November conferences.

### **Giving Thanks for the Other News: Freedom of Conscience Under Attack**

Speaking of freedom of conscience, or lack thereof, I also need to share that other news. As you remember, Ruth Ross and I both participated in a wonderful 5-day conference in Uppsala, Sweden, alongside our friend from Advocates Sweden, Ruth Nordström, and a number of friends from ADF, as well as the Christian Institute in the UK.

Sadly, Ruth Nordström's organization, the Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers (SHRL), has recently been involved in a freedom-of-conscience power play: SHRL had planned to present Sweden's Queen Silvia with an award for her work in fighting human trafficking. Unfortunately for all involved, radical pro-abortion groups made a public relations play, emphasizing SHRL's connections with Pro-Vita, a Swedish pro-life group. With all the uproar, the Queen gave in to the pressure of the pro-abortion groups, cancelled the ceremony, and refused the award.

We continue to support SHRL's efforts to fight human trafficking and to fight for the unborn. Please pray with us that the religious freedom of Christians in Europe, including the rights of conscience, would not be quashed.

### **Giving Thanks for Lawyers Who Never Quit**

Finally, the "other news" concerns Asia Bibi, the Christian mother from Pakistan who was falsely accused, convicted and sentenced to death for blasphemy. Her appeal was rejected by the Lahore High Court. Sadly, the hearing was crowded with radicals who favor the blasphemy laws, and the judges affirmed the lower court's ruling. The Christian lawyers who are representing Mrs. Bibi have one final appeal to the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Thankfully, there is also time to mount an effort from across the globe for her release.


Unfortunately, Pakistan's blasphemy laws have caused a great deal of suffering for Christians, as well as other minority faiths, in the assassinations in 2011 of two politicians who spoke out for their repeal. Please pray with us for the safety of Asia Bibi, still in prison, and the Pakistani advocates who will be involved in the legal briefing. These Advocates are bravely standing up, often at threat to their own lives, to represent those accused under this harsh law.

### **Giving Thanks for You**

We are so grateful for the prayer support for our ministry. We couldn't do what we do without it. Thanks also for the regular support of faithful donors. Those monthly gifts that come in provide great encouragement. Thanks also to those of you whose gifts are year-end gifts. The end of 2014 is rapidly approaching and if you have not yet given this year, or ever, we ask that you would prayerfully consider including Advocates International in your year-end charitable giving. Those gifts allow us to continue to encourage, enable and equip advocates around the globe.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney  
President and CEO

PS. *Merci beaucoup* to Nicolas Duval and *tack så mycket* to Mats Tunehag for their six years of service on the Global Council. Thank you both for all you've done for Advocates.