

FEBRUARY 2018

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” – Romans 13:1

“But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”—Acts 4:19-20

Dear Friends,

What do we do when governments and authorities do things that appear to be contrary to what is right? The answer is not easy, but our Advocates face this question frequently.

As we shared over the past few months, Nepal’s government passed a new anti-conversion law which essentially criminalizes Christianity. Thanks for your continued prayers for our colleagues in Nepal as they continue to seek ways to keep that law from coming into effect on August 1, 2018. And Nepal is not the only country facing such laws.

Just this past month, Bolivia adopted a law which states in part that “recruiting people to take part in armed conflicts or in religious or faith organizations” is punishable with a 7 to 12 years prison sentence, plus fines.

Although the purpose of the new law may have a reasonable basis in preventing human trafficking, its language is imprecise and vague enough that it could easily be misused to attack churches that local governing authorities dislike. The law doesn’t go into effect for 17 months, so between now and then, our advocates will be addressing this with the Bolivian government: This law is in clear violation of human rights conventions which Bolivia has endorsed.

Of course, other similar laws around the world would fill pages. And this is where the strength of Advocates International comes into play. Advocates from many places all working together can help provide vital legal protections for the Church.

When we have the opportunity and capacity to reason with lawmakers to build guardrails that protect, rather than simply allow laws that could lead to horrible consequences for people of faith, we must always take steps to do so. Our network of lawyers is equipped and enabled to defend the Church from within the legal system. Your prayers in supporting this work are equally effective and vital.

To further equip and enable our network of lawyers, Advocates International is planning to launch the **AI Institute for Christian Legal Studies (ICLS)** in 2018, prompted by the work of Professor Pat Talbot, who has been teaching law in Indonesia for the past several years.

Although the number of Christian law fellowships continues to increase around the world, local members frequently lack a Christian worldview, or the skills and resources to address the societal issues facing their countries. The ICLS will multiply the impact of these advocates in their local chapters by (1) discipling and equipping them with resources on a Biblical Worldview of law and justice; (2) developing resources for and encouraging service in one of AI's 7 Global Resource Teams; and (3) providing professional development training to enhance their legal skills to be more effective in serving Christ in their communities.

However, we will need extraordinary financial provision to launch the Institute. In addition, back in November, we started our **Encourage & Enable Campaign** to raise scholarships to bring young lawyers and law students to one of AI's conferences. To date, we've raised about \$1,500 towards our goal of \$15,500, and we hope that you'll seriously consider making a special gift designated to help us disciple and train the next generation of Advocates leaders.

In closing, we at AI would like to affirm that, despite the US President's recent comments that disparaged multiple nations, we work closely with many friends from these countries, and we are proud of the work they do in difficult circumstances. They are the salt and light in places that can be dark, showing the love of Jesus through their lives every day. They deserve our prayer support and friendship.

Finally, to help you in praying with us for our Advocates across the globe, we've enclosed our Prayer Calendar listing key national leaders throughout the network. They are grateful for your prayer support, as are we.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and your financial investment. When challenges arise, your support helps us to encourage, enable and equip advocates to Do Justice with Compassion, especially when they face laws that pose challenges to spreading the Gospel of Jesus.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent M. McBurney
President & CEO





2018 NATIONAL LEADERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Pray with us for these national leaders

Mondays: Advocates Africa

ADVOCATES AFRICA: *Chairman Akanni Sunny (Nigeria)*

ANGOLA: Armando Palanga, Maria Lucia Da Silveira; **BENIN:** Euloge Akpo; Agathe Affougnon
BOTSWANA: Edward Luke II; **BURKINA FASO:** Paul Dipama; Dieudonné Bonkoungou; **BURUNDI:**
Vianney Niyonkuru; **CAMEROON:** Rose Mbah-Acha; **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:** Moussa Yves;
CHAD: Diane Poufinet, ; **COTE D'IVOIRE:** Josue Tchimou; **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:** Jean
Alain Kasonga; **EGYPT:** Emad Felix Moubarak; **ERITREA:** Tedla Aradom; **ETHIOPIA:** *Nigatu Tadesse;*
GABON: Moutou David, Sala Watoma R. David; **GAMBIA:** Joseph Gomez; Tracy Davies-Wilson;
GHANA: Nketiah Yaw; **GUINEA:** Frédéric Loua Foromo; **KENYA:** Nelson Ashitiva, Joyce Kabaki ;
LESOTHO: Tsabo Matooni, Sue Merriman; **LIBERIA:** Othello Payman, James Jones; **MALAWI:** Pacharo
Kayila; **MALI:** Yaya Daou; **MOZAMBIQUE:** Mateus Mosse; **NAMIBIA:** Masiza Shakespeare, K.B.
Ngutjinazo; **NIGER:** Issaka Moussa ; **NIGERIA:** Arome M. Okwori; **RWANDA:** Safari Gahizi ; **SENEGAL:**
Joseph Nassakou; **SIERRA LEONE:** Ibrahim Koroma; **SOUTH AFRICA:** Teresa Conradie, Maryna
Joubert; **SOUTH SUDAN:** *Benjamin Sogora;* **SUDAN:** Mary James Ajith; **SWAZILAND:** B.A. Dube;
TANZANIA: John Osapiri; **TOGO:** Zacharie Wilson-Adjete; **UGANDA:** Dr. Daniel Ruhweza; **ZAMBIA:**
Stephen Lungu; **ZANZIBAR:** Yussuf Sulieman; **ZIMBABWE:** Ashton Debwe

Tuesdays: Advocates Asia & Oceania

ADVOCATES ASIA: *Chairman Min Choon Lee (Malaysia), Exec. Com. Vice Chairman, Gregory Vijayendran* **AUSTRALIA:** Mark Mudri, Mark Fowler; **AZERBAIJAN:** Asif (Sadig) Huseynov; **BANGLADESH:**
Elizabeth Halder; **CHINA:** Julia Feng; **FIJI:** Heilala Tabete; **HONG KONG:** Victor Yau (C@B), Steven Yip (CLF);
INDIA: Robin David, Pramod Singh, Tehmina Arora; **INDONESIA:** Tony Budidjaja, Fredrik Jacob Pinakunary;
ISRAEL: Marvin Kramer, Botrus Mansour; **JAPAN:** Hiroshi Nagao; **JORDAN:** Haytham Eraifej; **KAZAKHSTAN:**
Samira Shindauletova; **KOREA:** Dongsub Sim; **KYRGYZSTAN:** Asel Bayastanova; **LEBANON:** Elie Kharat;
MALAYSIA: Min Choon Lee; **MONGOLIA:** Baasankhuu Octyabri; **MYANMAR:** Saw Hla Henry; **NEPAL:**
Bishwash Sunuwar; **NEW ZEALAND:** Simon Greening, Joanna Pidgeon; **PAKISTAN:** Joseph Francis; **PAPUA
NEW GUINEA:** Andrew Kwimberi; **PHILIPPINES:** Aldwin Salumbides, Elgene Feliciano; **RUSSIA:** Katya
Smyslova; **SINGAPORE:** Gregory Vijayendran; **SRI LANKA:** Godfrey Yogarajah; **TAJIKISTAN:** Parvina
Ahmedova; **THAILAND:** Anurak Poonnoo; **UZBEKISTAN:** Nail Gabdullin; **VIETNAM:** Nguyen Van Dai

Wednesdays: Advocates Europe

ADVOCATES EUROPE: *President Latchezar Popov (Bulgaria)*

ALBANIA: Toni Gogu, Altin Naqe, Fatmir Lacej; **ARMENIA:** Aliona Cara, Hasmik Hovsepian; **AUSTRIA:**
Robert Kramer; **BELARUS:** Dina Shavtsova, Sergei Shavtsov, Natallia Vasilevich; **BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA:**
Aleksander Vukovic; **BULGARIA:** Latchezar Popov; **CZECH REPUBLIC:** Adam Russ, Martin Okac; **CROATIA:**
Jasmin Avdagic, Tihomir Kukolja; **FINLAND:** Ville Hoikkala; **FRANCE:** Nancy Lefevre, Nicolas Duval;
GEORGIA: George Kiknadze. Tamuna Uchava; **GERMANY:** Patrick Menges, Martin Franke, Peter Gegenwart,
Baerbel Gegenwart, Armin Eckermann; **GREECE:** Pepie Pagoni, Vassilios Tsirbas; **HOLLAND:** Inge
Bijdevaate, Eline de Groot; **ITALY:** Gianfranco Amato, Pascquale Annicchino; **KOSOVO:** Pal Bala;
MACEDONIA: Laste Spasovski; **MOLDOVA:** Aliona Cara, Evghenii Sologubenco; **MONTENEGRO:** Sinisa
Nadazdin; **NORWAY:** Henning Heitmann; **POLAND:** Adam Bijas; **PORTUGAL:** Fernando Loja; **ROMANIA:**
Benjamin Lup; **RUSSIA:** Katya Smyslova; Yuri Snisarenko; **SERBIA:** Dusan Kostic; **SPAIN:** Eliseo Gomez-Lor;
SWEDEN: Ruth Nordström, Per Karlsson, Mats Tunehag; **SWITZERLAND:**
Benjamin Doberstein, Henri Minder; **TURKEY:** Hurrem Chevic, Egesu Oscara, Mine Yildirim; **UNITED
KINGDOM:** Michael Sookias, Paul Diamond; **UKRAINE:** Andrei Somov, Ivan Mykhalchuk, Sergei Gula

Doing Justice with Compassion

Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)

FEDERACIÓN INTER AMERICANA de JURISTAS CRISTIANOS/ ADVOCATES LATIN AMERICA:

Board: Uziel Santana (Brazil): President; Elizabeth de Larios (Guatemala): Vice President; Lorenzo Hernandez (Guatemala): Treasurer; Rosana Guillen (Uruguay) Secretary; and Carmen Gloria (Chile): Vogal. **Deliberative Council:** Gladys Alvarado and César García (Guatemala); Gabriela Mesenbrink and Romina Miranda (Argentina); Valmir Nascimento and Felipe Augusto (Brazil). Gloria Gallardo and María Pippa (Chile); Marcel Legarra and Silvana Ferreira (Uruguay); Juan Carlos Tobón and Catalina Rueda (Colombia). **Fiscal Council:** Ênio Araújo (Brazil), Lidia García Torralba (Argentina) and Grisel Arrecis (Guatemala). **ARGENTINA:** Luis Guillermo Daglio; **BOLIVIA:** Dr. Harold Isevich Melgar; **BRAZIL:** Gilberto Ribeiro; Uziel Santana; **CHILE:** Carmen Gloria Moreira; **COLOMBIA:** Juan Carlos Tobon Arboleda; **COSTA RICA:** Dorca Henriquez; **CUBA:** Alina Zaragoza Ramírez; **ECUADOR:** Espléndida Navarrete; **EL SALVADOR:** Hugo D. Pineda, Patricia Melara de Rivera; **GUATEMALA:** David Sentés Luna; **HONDURAS:** Gilda Espinal, Geovanny Pinto, Rivaldo Rivera; **MEXICO:** Jorge Lee; **NICARAGUA:** Guadalupe Gomez, Melba Alguera; **PARAGUAY:** Bettina Chamorro, Daniel Varela; **PERU:** Ana María Caro; **PUERTO RICO:** Ivette Montes, Sonimar Losada; **URUGUAY:** Marcel Legarra; **VENEZUELA:** Rhaizza de Villarreal

Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean

ADVOCATES NORTH AMERICA:

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA: Radford Hill; **BARBADOS:** Anne Reid, Tennyson Vaughn; **BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS:** Lorraine St. Rose; **CANADA:** Derek Ross, Robert Reynolds; **DOMINICA:** Jeffrey Douglas-Murdock, Carlita Benjamin; **GRENADA:** Thandi Lyle; **GUYANA:** Tejnarine Remroop, Justice Yonette Cummings, Kim Kyte-John; **JAMAICA:** Shirley Richards; **SAINT LUCIA:** Liz Joseph; **SAINT VINCENT and THE GRENADINES:** Mandella Campbell; **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:** Alice Soo Hon, Hyacinth Griffith, Maureen Rajnauth-Lee; **USA:** David Nammo, Jennifer Patrick

Saturdays: Advocates Global Council & Board Members

Global Council – Exec. Committee: Chairperson, Teresa Conradie (South Africa); Vice-Chair: Gregory Vijayendran (Singapore); Treasurer, Mark Mudri (Australia); Secretary, Pete Rathbun (USA); At-Large, Latchezar Popov (Bulgaria); At-Large, Elizabeth de Larios (Guatemala).

Members – Africa: Dr. Bankole Sodipo (Nigeria); Hon. Mike Chibita (Uganda); **Asia:** Robin David (India); Min Choon Lee (Malaysia); Dongsu Sim (South Korea); **Europe:** Eliseo Gomez (Spain); Peter Gegenwart (Germany); **Latin America:** Uziel Santana (Brazil); Grisel Arrecis (Guatemala); **Middle East:** vacant (please pray for new representative); **North America/Caribbean:** Justice Alice Soo Hon (Trinidad & Tobago); Ruth Ross (Canada); Robert Treirweiler (USA).

AI Board: Chairperson, Ruth Ross (Canada); Vice-Chairmen, Calvin Beresh (Canada) and Jeffrey Brauch (Treasurer) (USA); Secretary, Sam Logan (USA); Matt Bristol (USA); Teresa Conradie (South Africa); Peter Gegenwart (Germany); Timothy Klenk (USA); Hee Eun Lee (South Korea); Min Choon Lee (Malaysia); Peter Rathbun (USA); Roger Sherrard (USA); Ken Starr (USA); and Morse Tan (USA)

Sundays: Advocates Staff & Family

Please pray for Daniela Ancalle, and Brent McBurney, his wife Elizabeth, son Ian and daughter Sarah Louise.