

BRENT M. MCBURNEY
PRESIDENT & CEO
RUTH A. M. ROSS
DEP. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL COUNCIL

BMCBURNEY@ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG
RUTHROSS@ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG
WWW.ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG

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"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in Heaven. . . He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it." Mathew 10: 32, 39

Dear Friends,

Last month, on a beach in Libya, 21 young men from Egypt were executed by ISIS. Each professed Jesus before being martyred—statements that were broadcast around the globe in video and photos. Last year, the world witnessed the story of Meriam Ibrahim, a Sudanese Christian woman charged by her government with apostasy, who gave birth in prison, but was finally freed. These and numerous other stories have awakened many in a new way to the increasing plight of the persecuted church.

For almost a decade the Religious Liberty Partnership (RLP) has been bringing together a wide variety of organizations whose primary task is helping persecuted Christians. Advocates is a member and I serve on the RLP Leadership Team. The RLP is all about collaboration, and key partnerships are achieving more than if we were to continue separately. In late March, we met together for our annual consultation in Bangkok, Thailand, where we heard from many in SE Asia who face persecution or are helping the persecuted. We also discussed issues of persecution across the globe.

During our time together, we agreed that the gravity of the situation in Iraq and Syria, the birthplace of Christianity, requires our special attention. Pray with us for our brothers and sisters who are being driven away from their homes.

Another community of which Advocates is a part is the Global Kingdom Partnership Network (GKPN). Begun a year or so after the RLP, the GKPN is a unique partnership of church pastors from around the globe whose primary mission is mutual support for one another and strengthening and growing the body of Christ. In 2012, the GKPN added its Marketplace Initiative, made up of Godly business leaders belonging to the member churches. Until this year, relationships have been the primary purpose for the GKPN, building trust amongst its members, and the Pastors' Table and the Marketplace Initiative have been meeting in parallel but separate gatherings.

The GKPN met in early March and brought together the Pastors and Marketplace friends in Miami. One significant development of our gathering, after these several years of relationship building, was a decision to intervene in aid of the persecuted church.

One of the first outcomes of the GKPN efforts is that the Global Day of Prayer, scheduled this year for Pentecost (May 24), will focus primarily on praying for the persecuted church. Combined with the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church (RLP/WEA effort), scheduled for the first Sunday in November, there is a significant increase in efforts to make the body of Christ around the world more aware and engaged in assisting the persecuted church. We will be providing further details on both of these prayer events next month.

Perhaps the most important outcome of the GKPN Miami meeting is that we, particularly those churches involved, should intervene now in Iraq and Syria. For Advocates' part, we have the opportunity to bridge the relationship between the GKPN and the RLP and further strengthen the efforts of both partnerships in helping the persecuted church, and I would ask that you pray with us for wisdom in doing that.

Beyond these two key gatherings, the month of March was full of opportunities. First, Ruth Ross met with advocates in Colombia, encouraging them to reengage their fellowship together, and in their efforts to help persecuted Christians, particularly the indigenous Colombians whose constitutional rights are being trumped by laws that show favor to their tribal leaders instead. Second, I was the keynote speaker at the Handong International Law School Convocation, and was blessed to worship together with Dongsu Sim and the many lawyers who attend his church. Your prayers for my talks were answered in a powerful way. Thank you.

Third, we are excited to announce that Advocates, in cooperation with our friends at Regent University Law School, will provide three law student internships this summer. The first student, Kraig Smikel, will work with Latcho Popov at the Rule of Law Institute in Sofia, Bulgaria. The second, Julianna Battenfield, will work with Teresa Conradie and our colleagues in Cape Town, South Africa. The third, Ryan Dobbs, will work in Canada with Ruth Ross and our friends at the Christian Legal Fellowship. Please pray with us for the mentoring relationships, for safe travels for the students, and that their efforts will bear fruit for our advocates.

Finally, included with this newsletter is our April/May Prayer Calendar. Please join with us as we pray each Monday for Advocates Africa; Tuesday for Advocates Asia; Wednesday for Europe; Thursday for Latin America; Friday for North America and the Caribbean; Saturday for the Global Council and board of AI; and Sunday for the staff.

We are grateful for your prayers and your financial support. You are important partners with us and your involvement continues to help us encourage, equip and enable advocates around the globe. They also enable us to better serve the persecuted church and help those who confess Jesus, even in the face of death.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO



PRAYER CALENDAR – APRIL/MAY 2015

Mondays: Advocates Africa

- Please continue to pray for the planning of the **11th Advocates Africa Conference**, August 12-16, 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. The Global Council will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with this event.
- Please pray for summer intern Julianna Battenfield who will be working with Teresa Conradie and Nadene Badenhorst in South Africa in July and August.
- Please continue to pray for peace in Egypt, Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan.
- Please continue to pray for our colleagues in **CLASFON** Nigeria and their legal efforts against Boko Haram.

Tuesdays: Advocates Asia & Oceania

- Please pray for our friends of the **Christian Legal Association** (India) as they prepare to host the **14th Advocates Asia Conference** in New Delhi, India, October 22-24.
- Please pray for Advocates role in the efforts of the RLP and the GKPN in Iraq and Syria, helping the persecuted church. Pray for no duplication and for efficiency in outcomes.
- Please continue to pray for the **Rule of Law Institute Mongolia**. Baasankhuu Oktyabri indicates that they have outgrown their current office space and are looking for larger offices. Pray for the details of these transactions.
- Please pray for Advocates outreach to law students in South Korea, Indonesia and across Asia.
- Australia's Global Council representative, **Mark Mudri**, asks that we continue to pray for wisdom and effectiveness in legislative implementation and cultural acceptance of the Nordic model to combat sex-trafficking.

Wednesdays: Advocates Europe

- Please continue to pray for the **Christian Lawyers Association** and their new Rule of Law Institute in Ukraine. The registration of the Institute is still in process. Further, the ceasefire has not lasted and our friends ask us to continue to pray for peace in their country.
- Please pray for summer intern Kraig Smikel who will be working for Latcho Popov at the **Rule of Law Institute** in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Please continue to pray for the fellowships across the continent.
- Please pray for Andrea Williams and **Christian Concern** in the UK as they continue to see an increase in religious freedom cases. A street preacher was convicted of a Public Order offense for using the "wrong" Bible verse in a public conversation with a man who identifies as homosexual.

Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)

- Please continue to pray for the planning of the **2015 FIAJC Conference**, scheduled for September 3-5, 2015, in San Salvador, El Salvador.
- Please continue to pray for the **FIAJC** leadership and for God's financial provision for the ideas they have to make a difference, particularly in confronting violence. Pray also that God will raise up a worker for the region to help them follow up on initiatives that are planned.
- **FIAJC's** new Global Council representative, **Elizabeth DeLarios** asks that we pray for peace in Guatemala where official reports indicate 13 violent deaths per day. Presidential elections are scheduled for September and corruption there is out of control. (2 Chron. 7:14)

Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean

- Please pray for our summer intern Ryan Dobbs who will be working in Canada with Ruth Ross and with the **Christian Legal Fellowship**.
- **Advocates Caribbean** President, Justice Alice Soo Hon, asks that you "please pray that they will become a stronger force in the fight against the introduction of gay rights and abortion. We need more laborers. Too few hands for the work set before us. Also pray that the supremacy of God will not be removed from our Constitutions and that the freedom of worship will not be eroded."
- Please continue to pray for **Christian Legal Society (USA)**, Executive Director David Nammo and the staff of CLS as they continue Seeking Justice with the Love of God.

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); **Members – Africa:** Dr. Bankole Sodipo (Nigeria); Mike Chibita (Uganda); **Asia:** Robin David (India); Dongsu Sim (South Korea); **Europe:** Eliseo Gomez (Spain); Peter Gegenwart (**Germany**); **Latin America:** Gerardo Amarilla (Uruguay); Elizabeth DeLarios (**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:** Acting Chairman and Treasurer, Sam Logan (USA); Secretary pro-temp, Ruth Ross (Canada); Calvin Beresh (Canada); Jeffrey Brauch (USA); Matt Bristol (USA); Teresa Conradie (South Africa); 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 Ruth Ross and her husband Pat (currently working in Colombia); Romi Kobayashi; and Brent McBurney, his wife Elizabeth, son Ian and daughter Sarah Louise.