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"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:24

"[Y]ou shall be My witnesses...even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Dear Friends,

When attorneys talk about intellectual property laws, one might expect a rather dull discussion of patents or copyrights—possibly the piracy of music and movies. Evangelism is not the most likely outcome. However, when you bring together Advocates from six continents, as we did in Cape Town, South Africa last month, the results can be life-changing. Just ask the three young law students from Taiwan who attended the 11th Advocates Africa Convocation.

Before I tell this story, however, allow me to set the table for one of the most amazing Advocates conferences I've attended. Several months ago our dear sister from South Africa, Teresa Conradie, asked her fellow Global Council members and the board of Advocates Africa to join with her in praying and fasting for the conference. Then a team of intercessors made up of Teresa, Mark Mudri from Australia, Gregory Vijayendran from Singapore, Ruth Ross from Canada, and Olusegun Olanipekun, a lawyer-turned-pastor from Nigeria who led the devotions during the conference, held weekly Skype prayer sessions to prepare for the conference.

The day before the conference began, 27 of us drove to Cape Agulhas, the southern-most tip of the continent and a spiritual gateway into Africa, to pray for the conference, the nation of South Africa, and the continent of Africa. And God was planning even more than we knew.

The conference, "Religious Liberty: a Touchstone for True Freedom in a Modern World,"—attended by our Advocates from the legal profession, as well as South African pastors and other non-legal advocates—opened on Wednesday night, which is when I first met Sophie.

Sophie and four of her fellow law students from Taiwan who are studying in South Africa this year found out about the Advocates Africa conference on the internet and decided to attend. When I met her, I was curious to know how students from Asia ended up in Africa, but admittedly, I did not think to ask whether they were followers of Jesus Christ. By the time they had experienced all God had planned for the conference, they would be.

On Thursday night, during a closed plenary session, we heard some incredibly powerful testimonies from victims of religious persecution. It was a humbling experience hearing from these heroes of the faith who exemplify *John 12:24*. One widow lost her husband and two children. Another widow, kidnapped along with her husband by Al Qaeda terrorists, was released, but her husband was killed. A student who survived the Kenya university massacre shared his experience by telephone because he could not get a visa to travel to South Africa. Advocates was able to help provide scholarships for each of these special guests to the conference. Each praised God for His faithfulness in the midst of trials.

Friday morning's sessions included powerful personal testimonies from Justice Eberhard Bertelsman, a Judge of the High Court of South Africa and Patrick Kuwana, businessman from Zimbabwe, both of whom shared how Jesus radically changed their lives.

On Saturday morning, following the second session, I met Bankole and several of his colleagues from Nigeria in the hotel lobby, talking animatedly with Sophie and the other two young ladies from Taiwan. I learned later that they were sharing the Gospel and that the three law students prayed to accept Jesus.

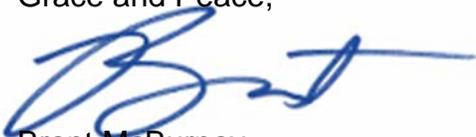
A bit later, I saw Sophie and her two girlfriends sitting in the corner of the lobby with longtime Advocates friend Art Lees, who was sharing with them, in their own language, how the Chinese alphabet includes much of the Biblical narrative. Please pray with us for Sophie and her fellow students as they begin to learn more about following Jesus. Pray also the strengthening of relationships between the Church and the legal profession that began at the conference.

Please continue to pray with us for this month's 11th Convencion Latin Americanas de Abogados Cristianos (CLAC), in San Salvador, El Salvador from September 3-6. Our hope is that God will do as many amazing things there as happened in South Africa. Please also continue to pray for the 14th Advocates Asia conference in New Delhi, India from October 22-24. I invited Sophie and her friends to join us there if they can.

Thank you again for your ongoing prayers for this ministry that continues to provide encouragement for Advocates from around the globe who are fighting for religious freedoms and bringing the good news of Jesus Christ wherever they go. Thanks too for your financial gifts that help us to bear much fruit, whether through scholarships that enable us to bring those with such powerful testimonies, or for those who needed to hear the Gospel from a law professor from another country.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO