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JANUARY 2016

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:16-17

Dear Friends,

It can be easy, amidst the craziness of cancelled flights, to allow a bad attitude to creep in. People around you who know they likely won't get home on time get angry with ticket agents who have no more control over the weather-related problems than a weatherman.

When that happened to me and my family as we were headed home after the Christmas holidays, I was encouraged by Paul's admonition to the Thessalonians: *Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing.* I also remembered what Sam Ericsson used to say: Don't let a disappointment turn into discouragement. So we rejoiced when we were able to re-book our flights to the following day, praising God for His provision in the middle of a minor inconvenience. Because compared to what so many of our fellow believers face each day—losing homes and becoming refugees, facing arrest, imprisonment, torture, and even death—we are blessed beyond measure.

Many of those who are facing serious persecution are believers in Iran. Almost 50 known to have been arrested for the faith in Christ are languishing in Iranian prisons. Praise God that pastor Farshid Fathi was released by his captors last month after almost five years in prison. Please pray with us for the release of the others, including Pastor Saeed Abedini, an American citizen arrested in 2012, and Pastor Benham Irani, detained since 2011.

And Iran is hardly alone in the mistreatment of Christians: North Korea, Somalia, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Sudan all rank ahead of Iran on the *Open Doors World Watch List*. We have yet to find Christian lawyers in any of these nations who can stand in the gap. Please pray with us in 2016 that the Lord will raise up Advocates from these nations and others that face the most serious persecution.

Enclosed is a prayer alert that lists our Global Council, including two new members from Latin America. Each Council member is called by God to help lead the Advocates network, especially in regards to the Global Resource Teams. We rejoice evermore for your unceasing prayers for Advocates International. You encourage us to continue encouraging and equipping Advocates to do justice with compassion around the globe. Thank you.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO



JANUARY PRAYER GUIDE: The Global Council

- **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, Elizabeth de Larios (Guatemala).
- **Members – Africa:** Dr. Bankole Sodipo (Nigeria); Hon. Mike Chibita (Uganda); **Asia:** Robin David (India); Dongsub 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).