

DECEMBER 2016

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

Dear Friends,

At the 5th Advocates Caribbean Conference in Georgetown, Guyana last month, we were reminded that we have been given a special charge by our King: that is to be His ambassadors, especially to the legal profession. As advocates and lawyers, we are specially trained to interact in legal settings: courtrooms, etc., and we speak a different language: legalese. And although we hail from different countries, we are first and foremost, citizens of Heaven.

The conference itself was a tremendous success, attended by almost one hundred lawyers, judges, law students and pastors. We addressed the theme *“The Role of the Church in a Changing World: Steadfast and Immovable,”* and were treated to excellent talks from a variety of speakers including the Chief Justice of Guyana, Yonette Cummings-Edwards, who winsomely reminded us what it means to be steadfast and immovable; the Honorable Madame Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, now serving on the Caribbean Court of Justice, who brought our Sunday devotional on being ambassadors for Christ; and from a young law student who had written his own poem on being in the legal profession.

Getting to know these amazing advocates is a great encouragement, and knowing that they represent a bright future for their nations is a blessing. Please continue to pray with us for Advocates Guyana and the other fellowships around the Caribbean as they face the challenges of a changing world, relying on their faith in Jesus to be steadfast and immovable, true ambassadors for Christ.

As 2016 comes to a close, I’m reminded of other ambassadors for Christ with whom I was blessed to break bread this past year. In February, I attended the World Without Orphans Global Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where over 600 believers gathered from 90+ nations. I led workshops on the legal aspects of working with orphans and foster children. I then joined Mark Mudri in Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia for meetings with advocates and Christian leaders from across the great southland. In March, I traveled to Europe where I met together with advocates fighting for the persecuted church at both the Religious Liberty Partnership Consultation in Oxford and the GKPN in Lisbon. In April I joined fellow ambassadors to the legal profession at the Christ und Jurist Congress in Stuttgart.

In June, Advocates was honored to send as ambassador one of our board members, Dean Jeffrey Brauch from Regent Law School, to the Advocates Asia regional conference in Krygyzstan, where he met with fellow lawyers and judges from across Central Asia, Korea, Russia and Singapore. In September, it was back Down Under for the 3rd AustralAsian Christian Legal Conference in Brisbane, where over 160 legal “ambassadors for Christ” from 18 nations pursued the theme of *Redeeming the Law*, and the Global Council held its annual face-to-face meeting.

And throughout the year, we have celebrated our 25th anniversary of encouraging, equipping and enabling advocates to do justice with compassion, remembering the legacy of Sam Ericsson and his vision to see Advocates International become “A Worldwide Fellowship of Advocates Bearing Witness of Jesus Christ Through the Legal Profession.” One can hardly find a better definition of being ambassadors.

We covet your prayers as we move into 2017. Like the theme of the conference in Guyana, we face many changes, yet resolve to remain steadfast. With Romi’s retirement after 14 years, we will be bringing on new staff. The Global Resource Teams, under the direction of the Global Council, will be tackling new projects.

At least three regional conferences are planned: Advocates Europe will gather in February in Tenerife, Spain; Advocates Africa will gather in August in Accra, Ghana; and Advocates Latin America (FIAJC) will gather in November in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I invite you to join me at any or all of these three conferences to meet with these wonderful ambassadors to the legal profession. In addition, Advocates partnerships with the RLP and GKPN will have me traveling to Brazil and Peru for meetings that impact the Church around the globe.

We are grateful for the prayer support for Advocates. As I say every month, we couldn’t do what we do without it. We are also incredibly grateful for the regular support of faithful donors—both monthly gifts and year-end gifts. The end of the year is almost here. 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. Your gifts allow us to continue to further the vision of encouraging ambassadors to the legal profession. Those advocates, like Justice Yonette from Guyana, are winsome and engaging, impacting their nations for the better. We are honored to serve alongside them as fellow ambassadors.

A Merry Christmas to you and yours and may the Lord bless and keep you in His perfect . . .

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO