

JULY 2017

**“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called the sons of God.” — Matthew 5:9**

Dear Friends,

Jesus often posed his toughest questions to the lawyers of His day. So some might think it strange to say “Blessed are the lawyers.” However, that is what the vision and mission of Advocates International is all about. Thankfully there are lawyers around the globe who are followers of Christ. Men and women who take Jesus’ commands to heart and love their neighbor, using their legal talents. Many are peacemakers. Some have been persecuted for His name. They are attorneys living out the beatitudes.

Last month, Christianity Today magazine published the enclosed article: *The Invisible Heroes of the Persecuted Church: The case for Christians investing in the profession only 1 in 5 Americans trust*, by Timothy Morgan. It tells a story that we believe helps people to see the importance of lawyers in the cultural battles for religious freedom, the persecuted church, and for the Church. We hope that it encourages you and we hope you will share this with your friends who may not know anything about Advocates. Please let us know if you’d like extra copies to share in your church, and we’ll be sure to send some along.

I’d also like to share another example of how Advocates is making a difference. Last month, about 25 Advocates, both lawyers and non-lawyers, from 22 nations gathered in Seoul, South Korea, for the Life, Family and Honor Global Conference. We shared our experiences from across the globe to help encourage and equip the Church in Korea to be prepared for the ongoing cultural battles for the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman. We also were able to gather together the lawyers and pray for one another on our last night. It was a powerful time of fellowship and strengthening each other, and we greatly appreciate your prayers for us.

I’ve enclosed our Advocates Prayer Calendar and ask that you join with us in covering our Advocates through prayer. Your financial gifts and especially your prayers help make it possible for us to make the statement “Blessed are the lawyers” a reality.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent M. McBurney
President & CEO





PRAYER CALENDAR: SUMMER

Mondays: Advocates Africa

- Please pray for the **12th Advocates Africa Conference** taking place in **Accra, Ghana** from August 16-20, 2017.
- Please pray for a peaceful, free, and fair election in **Kenya** later this year.
- Please pray for **Sierra Leone's** upcoming elections, for the respect of the rule of law, and for protection and guidance for our advocates working in this region.
- Please pray for peace and religious liberty for Coptic Christians in **Egypt** as they are facing increasing persecution.

Tuesdays: Advocates Asia and Oceania

- Please pray for **Advocates Korea** and their continuing efforts to help the Church in South Korea to protect the family and traditional marriage.
- Please pray for **Indonesian Christian Legal Society**. Several members were on the legal team for Jakarta's Christian Governor Ahok who was sentenced to two years in jail for blasphemy.
- Please pray for the development of Christian lawyer fellowships across Oceania, particularly in New Zealand and Fiji. There is a conference planned for Fiji in January 2018.

Wednesdays: Advocates Europe

- Pray for the Bulgarian Church as they face a newly proposed legislation by some parties in opposition who want to change the Law on Religion aiming to restrict the funding and activity in **Bulgaria** by churches and missionaries outside Europe.
- Give thanks for the successful National Conference of Rule of Law Institute that took place in the beginning of June in Varna, Bulgaria. The topic was rule of law and freedom. Please pray for next year on the 2nd of June in the city of Gabrovo is our annual Conference.
- Let's pray for our brothers and sisters in **Poland** who are about to begin prayer meetings in Wroclaw. May the Holy Spirit guide them and give all blessing.
- Please pray for the **Christ und Jurist** summer college in Darmstadt, **Germany**, Sept. 9-17th: *That God may send us "His" 20 law students, God's continued presence, His will, that we all may learn, and for our hosts: The Mary Sisters.* Pray for Dr. Ingo Friedrich and Dr. David Ruger, who are travelling to Budapest in October to meet Christian lawyers, to encourage them to found a prayer breakfast in parliament, and (hopefully) to build a network for Christian lawyers in **Hungary**.
- Pray for **Advocates France**; wisdom for France's newly elected President, Government and Parliament; for security as the terrorist threat is high and French people are traumatized by recent terrorist attacks; and for the Church—that Christians will shine the hope of Christ and serve for the good of all.
- Please begin to pray for the **European Network Conference** in Oct. 2018, 4-7th, in Berlin, organized by **LCF** (United Kingdom) and **Christ und Jurist** (Germany).

Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)

- Please pray for the approval by the Organization of American States (OAS) of the Resolution on Religious Liberty, a project that was presented by **ANAJURE** in the **XLVII General Assembly** of the OAS that took place on June 19-21 in Cancún, México.
- Please pray for the **12th Inter-American Convention of Christian Jurists** in Río de Janeiro taking place on November 16-19, 2017.
- Please pray for the political situation in **Brazil**.
- Please pray for the end of violence and corruption in **Guatemala**, for those with economic power to help the most vulnerable who especially around this time lose their homes due to landslides; and for God to strengthen our **Christian Lawyer Association** to reach more lawyers for Christ.

Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean

- Please pray for **Advocates Trinidad & Tobago** as a case has been filed for the removal of the buggery laws. We have filed as an interested party and need leave of the court. Please pray that leave is granted. Also for the substantive matter we need help, financially as well as persons who will help to steer us through the process (ex. expert witnesses, etc.).
- Please pray for Canada's **Christian Legal Fellowship** (CLF). On June 13-15, it intervened at the Ontario Divisional Court in *Christian Medical and Dental Society v. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*. The case will determine whether physicians can be compelled to participate in euthanasia and assisted suicide contrary to their religious and/or conscientious convictions.
- Also pray for **CLF** as it will make submissions before the Ontario Court of Appeal in *E.T. v. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board* on June 26 and seek leave to intervene as the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear appeals regarding *Trinity Western's proposed law school* on November 30. Please pray for the decision to be made later this year from the Supreme Court in *Ktunaxa v. British Columbia* (appeal heard Dec. 2, 2016), the first Indigenous religious freedom claim to be heard by the Supreme Court in the history of the *Charter*.

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); 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:** Bob Trierweiler (USA); Justice Alice Soo Hon (Trinidad & Tobago); Ruth Ross (Canada);.

AI Board: Chair, Ruth Ross (Canada); Vice-Chairmen, Calvin Beresh (Canada) and Jeffrey Brauch (Treasurer) (USA); Secretary, Sam Logan (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) (health issues); Ken Starr (USA); and Morse Tan (USA).

Sundays: Advocates Staff & Family

Please pray for our Office Administrator, Daniela Ancalle; Brent McBurney and his wife Elizabeth, their son Ian and daughter Sarah Louise, both of whom transition to new schools next fall.