

NOVEMBER 2017

**“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,
God making his appeal through us.” — 2 Corinthians 5:20**

Dear Friends,

One of the most rewarding things about working for Advocates International is the great joy of meeting brothers and sisters in Christ who also work in the legal profession. Many face critical life decisions and it is a blessing to be able to pray with them and encourage them through career changes. For younger lawyers and law students, the anxiety of starting out in a difficult profession can be overwhelming—I encourage them to stay the course, just as I was encouraged by my mentors, Sam Ericsson and Sam Casey.

In September, I was able to encourage a veteran criminal defense barrister in London whom I had only met the month before at the Advocates Africa conference in Ghana. David Owusu, a Ghanaian lawyer living in the UK, attended his first AI conference. During our time together at the conference, we had several opportunities to get to know one another because neither of us practices law in Africa.

One month later, when I was in London for meetings, I was able to reconnect with David when the judge in one of his cases surprisingly rescheduled the next morning's hearing to the afternoon. When David walked out of the courtroom, he got my text message asking if he was free the following morning. God's timing is unsurprising. David is seeking God's guidance on what's next after 25 years in the practice, and we prayed together in his law office about that very thing.

One added bonus to our meeting downtown is that I was then able to easily stop by the offices of the Lawyers Christian Fellowship before heading back to Heathrow airport for my flight to Frankfurt. While there I was able to join the LCF staff prayer time, and to greet a colleague from Christ und Jurist (Germany) who “happened” to be there. As Sam Ericsson would have said: “Divine Co-incidents!”

Another of those divine co-incidents happened in Darmstadt, Germany where I joined the Christ und Jurist Summer College at the Sisters of Mary Retreat Center (a Lutheran group of nuns). While it was such a joy to meet the nine law students and encourage them, just being there was a great encouragement to me. The translator assigned to me, Sister Anastasia, happens to be friends with Robert and Michael Sookias, UK solicitors that are good friends of mine. Moreover, she is from the village of Radlett, a north London suburb where I lived when I was four years old. I've never met anyone who even knows where it is, let alone is from there.

As a friend recently reminded me, it is so important for lawyers to fellowship with other lawyers because we can do so together without the possibility of being asked those “legal” questions that we might get at church or Bible study. Coming together, as we do at the various Advocates conferences around the globe, allows us the space to talk

professionally, while encouraging one another spiritually. And we'd like to make this more of a reality for young lawyers and law students for whom it might not be possible which is why this month and December we are launching AI's **Encourage & Enable** Campaign. Encourage & Enable is a fundraising opportunity that will enable young lawyers and law students to receive a scholarship to attend one of AI's conferences. You may ask yourself: "Why?"

Since the beginning, AI has connected Christian lawyers worldwide through its conferences where they have joined a vast network of believers who have supported each other when critical issues arose. An example was our communication and support to fellow lawyers in Nepal this year as they are working to reinstitute Christmas as a holiday and praying for Nepal to not turn back to a Hindu Kingdom.

Next-generation lawyers who join AI conferences:

- Join a Christian international support network that focuses on AI's six areas of advocacy: family, justice, reconciliation, religious freedom, rule of law, and sanctity of human life.
- Are mentored by other lawyers professionally and spiritually
- Receive legal resources and training as it relates to their faith
- Get exposure and the opportunity to support needs in specific regions around the world as these arise from our network.

Our goal is to raise **\$15,500** specifically for this program. For this reason, we invite you to become an **AI Ambassador** in Encourage & Enable. As an **AI Ambassador**, all you have to do is help us spread the news to family, friends, church and neighbors about this great opportunity to bless the next-generation of Christian lawyers through:

- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Text messages to family and friends
- E-mail messages
- Word of mouth

Whether you've been a donor for 25 years, or have not yet supported us financially, you can be an **AI Ambassador!** Please take the time to learn more about this year-end campaign on the enclosed form and let us know how you'll help us.

Thanks for your prayers that encourage us and your financial gifts that enable us to carry out the vision to be a worldwide fellowship of advocates bearing witness of Jesus Christ through the legal profession.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent M. McBurney
President & CEO

