

## OCTOBER 2018

**“Let your speech always be with grace, as *though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.” Colossians 4:6**

### Dear Friends,

When we hear about the challenges facing Christians around the world—like the anti-conversion law in Nepal—we ask ourselves, “how would we respond?” As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Colossians, we should respond with grace. For our colleagues in Nepal, a writ petition challenging the government’s attempts to rid the nation of minority religions is based on the rule of law and the treaties their government agreed to. Pray with us for the Advocates for the Nation team as they move forward with their petition.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the **50 Nations—1 Fellowship** conference in Berlin this month. This gathering of over 200 legal professionals from across Europe — co-hosted by Christ und Jurist (Germany) and the Lawyers’ Christian Fellowship (UK)—will be unlike most previous Advocates events in that the primary focus of the gathering will not be legal content to educate legal professionals, but rather, relationship building and how we can further encourage the growth and strengthening of Christian lawyer fellowships.

We begin on Thursday, October 4, with prayer walks around central Berlin, as well as the conference neighborhood, Spandau, with a focus on praying for key legal and political institutions and symbols. On Friday morning, our focus shifts to the limits of the law and our need for repentance and forgiveness leading to reconciliation and being set free. In the afternoon, we will visit Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, followed by additional time of worship, prayer and reconciliation with one another. On Saturday, delegates will choose from workshops that mirror AI’s mission: *Equipped to Engage* and *Equipped to Encourage*. We conclude our time together on Sunday morning as we are “Sent to be salt and light for Christ as legal professionals.

I am also encouraged that the Global Council will be joining our colleagues from Europe, as we hold our annual meeting in conjunction with the conference. We covet your prayers for the Global Council as we are seeking God’s guidance for His vision for how we can best serve the AI network through servant leadership. The Council, in many ways, provides spiritual guidance and oversight over all of Advocates’ ministry to the legal profession.

Another way Advocates continues to make a difference is through the Religious Liberty Partnership (RLP). I serve as the Secretary of the RLP Leadership Team, and was just in London for our semi-annual leadership team meeting. The RLP is a collaborative effort of 43 different ministries whose primary focus is on religious freedom and helping the

persecuted Church around the globe. By coming together, we can more effectively respond to the needs of the hurting church through task groups, such as our efforts to bring an end to apostasy and blasphemy laws. By raising awareness at the UN of the problems created by such laws, we hope to bring about changes that no one ministry alone could accomplish. Other areas of collaboration include task groups on helping believers from Muslim background (BMBs), and Gender & Religious Freedom, focusing on the special challenges that women face. Please continue to pray for the RLP and AI's role in these various efforts, that they be done with grace.

Yet another joy for me is the opportunity I have to meet with legal professionals and encourage them. While in London, I met and prayed with the LCF staff. They are busy with conference preparations and are still seeking a new Executive Director. Join me in praying for strength and endurance for their efforts, and for God's guidance in their search for a new leader.

I also visited the new offices of one of our partners, ADF International, and met their team there, Laurence (a lawyer) and Ryan. These two bright young Brits (both married to Americans), are doing a fantastic job, including publishing and distributing an *Employer's Guide to Christian Beliefs: Christianity in the Workplace*, in conjunction with LCF and the Evangelical Alliance. The guide is a grace-filled response to a very challenging cultural shift in the UK in which Christian beliefs are being denigrated and believers are being told to keep their beliefs to themselves, with many losing their jobs. Pray for Christians in the UK and that these efforts will have a positive response.

I also met with two UK barristers for prayer and mutual encouragement. Michael Sookias served on the board of Advocates Europe for many years and has become a good friend. David Owusu is a Ghanaian-born barrister I met last year at the Advocates Africa Convocation in Accra. Michael plans to join us in Berlin, and I am hoping that David will also.

There are too many additional prayer needs to include here, so you will find those on the enclosed Prayer Calendar. Thank you again for the financial support that is your investment in the work of Advocates around the globe. After a busy summer and now a busier fall, we are feeling a bit stretched financially and would greatly appreciate your year-end gifts early to allow us to continue to encourage, equip and enable these Advocates to always be prepared to respond with grace.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent M. McBurney  
President & CEO



## **PRAYER CALENDAR: FALL**

### **Mondays: Advocates Africa**

- Please pray for the 13<sup>th</sup> Advocates Africa Convocation in Kenya on August 19-24, 2019. Please pray for its hosts, its leaders, and its planning. This event marks AA's 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary.
- Please pray for AA's Board members located in Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, the DRC, Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, and Mozambique, and for its Next Generation Board representing Africa's regions.
- Please pray for the scourge of herdsmen and Islamic terrorists that has killed thousands of Nigerians to be brought to a permanent end urgently.
- Please pray for the imminent national elections in Nigeria to produce for us a God fearing leadership that will occasion justice and equity to all citizens, and for the election to go without violence.
- Please pray for the Lord to make CLASFON, legal association in Nigeria a voice of justice and righteousness that cannot be silenced.

### **Tuesdays: Advocates Asia and Oceania**

- Please continue to pray for Advocates for the Nation and their efforts in Nepal.
- Pray for AA's Board members located in Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, South Korea, Singapore, and India.
- Join us in giving thanks for two successful August conferences in Bangkok and Bali: "Law & Truth: Sacred Calling of the Christian Lawyer" and "Indonesia Justice Conference." Law students and lawyers received professional training and learned from the Word.
- Please pray for Kyrgyzstan's new draft amendments to its religious law that were put forward for public discussion on July 27, 2018. These new drafts suggest even stricter requirements for religious organizations and activity such as increasing founding-adult registration from 200 to 500 people and full state censorship of religious literature. There is one legal entity, an association of churches who represents the evangelical denomination.
- Please pray for Christians in China who are facing greater persecution due to new laws on religion which were implemented on February 2018.
- Please pray for the Christian minority in Bangladesh who are facing persecution. Hindus are among the minorities who are also facing persecution there. Please also pray for one of our advocates who is currently working in Myanmar's refugee Rohingya community.

### **Wednesdays: Advocates Europe**

- Join us in gratitude to God for the political freedom and the opportunity of Kosovo to know and believe in Him. Please pray for the establishment of rule of law based on the ethical standards of God and for good leaders in the Justice system. Pray for a peaceful final political agreement between Kosovo and Serbia. Pray for a Kosovo representative to get a visa for Berlin Conference.
- Join us in gratitude for successfully launching the project for Law on Lobbyism and Lobbyists in each of the Eastern European countries. Please pray for God to support our efforts to successfully launch the project for Personal Dignity in these nations through visible and applicable methodology in line with Art. 1 of the EU's Charter for Human Rights, and for the Lord's support of the unity of Christians to defend religious freedom given as God's gift, after the "fall of the wall" in 1989.
- Please pray for Germany, UK and Advocates Europe: For the Lord's hand, guidance and grace, during the Christian lawyers Conference in Berlin, October 4-7, 2018.

## **Thursdays: Advocates Latin America (FIAJC)**

- Please pray for each of the national legal associations, members of FIAJC.
- Please pray for a religious freedom event to take place in Valparaiso, Chile in October 2018 which is organized by Advocates Chile, FIAJC, and IPPFoRB Latin America.
- Please pray for the Advanced Program in Human Rights and Religious Freedom: UN and OAS Systems, a course to take place at the University of Oxford on June 24-28, 2019.
- Please pray for the next regional conference to take place in Chile in November 2019.

## **Fridays: Advocates North America & Caribbean**

- Please pray for the next Advocates Caribbean conference scheduled to take place in Grenada on November 9-11, 2018.
- Please pray for CLS's 2018 National Conference to take place on October 11-14, 2018.
- Join us in giving thanks for CLF's 2018 National Conference that took place on September 27-30, 2018.
- Please pray for CLF, CLS, and AC's Boards – for guidance and wisdom as they lead.

## **Saturdays: Advocates Global Council & Board Members**

**Global Council – Exec. Committee:** Chairperson, Teresa Conradie (South Africa); Vice-Chair: Gregory Vijayendran (Singapore); Treasurer, Mark Mudri (Australia); Secretary, Pete Rathbun (USA); 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); Min Choon Lee (Malaysia); 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:** Hyacinth Griffith (Trinidad & Tobago); Ruth Ross (Canada); Robert Trierweiler (USA).

**AI Board:** Chairperson, Ruth Ross (Canada); Vice-Chairmen, Calvin Beresh (Canada) and Jeffrey Brauch (Treasurer) (USA); Secretary, Sam Logan (USA); Matt Bristol (USA); Teresa Conradie (South Africa); Peter Gegenwart (Germany); Timothy Klenk (USA); Hee Eun Lee (South Korea); Min Choon Lee (Malaysia); Peter Rathbun (USA); Roger Sherrard (USA); Ken Starr (USA); and Morse Tan (USA)

## **Sundays: Advocates Staff & Family**

Please pray for our Office Administrator, Daniela Ancalle, particularly as she leads a 10-week Sunday school class on Women of the Reformation at her church; For VP Pat Talbot and his wife Kathy; and for Brent McBurney and his wife Elizabeth, their son Ian and daughter Sarah Louise.