

OCTOBER 2019

“Render to all what is due them: . . . honor to whom honor.” Romans 13:7

Dear Friends,

Paul reminds us in Romans to render honor to those to whom it is due. This month, I'd like to share a couple of stories that reflect this Biblical injunction which demonstrates the importance of how Advocates International truly functions.

The first happened in Mombasa, Kenya in August as Advocates Africa celebrated its 20th Anniversary. The conference itself was a tremendous success. Over 175 delegates from 24 nations attended and Kenya's Chief Justice, David Maraga, was the opening keynote speaker. Our KCLF hosts did an amazing job of making sure that no detail was left to chance. I, and all of the delegates, give a hearty congratulations and thank you to Kimathi Kamencu and the entire team who spent over a year planning.

On the final night of the conference, AA President Sunny Akanni presented awards to numerous individuals who played critical roles in the establishment and ongoing life of Advocates Africa since its founding in 1999. Among those honored were Teresa Conradie and Mike Chibita, both members of the Global Council, recognized for their leadership and for attending all 13 AA conferences; Alison Diarra and Bayo Akinlade for their indelible impact and service to the AA family over many years. Many others were also honored, but most touching was the award given posthumously to Sam Ericsson, and especially to Bobbie Ericsson for sharing her beloved Sam with Advocates Africa. They could not have been more grateful for all Sam did for them.



(A small group photo includes, among others: Brent McBurney; GC Chair Teresa Conradie; GC members Mike Chibita and Bankole Sodipo; AA Pres. Sunny Akanni and Misgana Kifle)

Being together with brothers and sisters from across Africa was a beautiful time of fellowship. It was a blessing to meet the two Isaacs from Zanzibar, representing one of the newest fellowships in the Advocates family, as well as numerous law students from across the continent. Advocates Africa now boasts 40 national fellowships and the 14th Convocation will be held in Rwanda in 2021, the first in a Francophone nation. Please join with us in praying for our friends from Kigali as they begin to plan.

The second story takes place in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, where the group “*Bible et Droit*” (Bible and Law), meet regularly to talk about faith and justice and share the challenges they face in the legal profession. Started in December 2016 by Natacha Joset, a lawyer and PhD student in health law, and her husband, Timothée, a theologian and historian who is a staff worker with IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students), the group of 10-12 young French-speaking law professionals and law students meet every month over dinner. Here is how one of the lawyers gave honor where honor was due:

I have had the pleasure of participating in *Bible et Droit* meetings since the beginning and these meetings have profoundly renewed my understanding of my profession. If the University encourages us to distinguish faith from knowledge, a theology of works allows us to reconcile the two. And both my faith and my professional practice are encouraged by these meetings. A big thank you to Natacha and Timothée who feed us so well physically and spiritually.

Last month I took the train from Zurich to Neuchâtel where I met over dinner with Natacha, and two of the other lawyers, Olivier Bigler and Yan Neuenschwander. We had an amazing time of fellowship and prayed for one another. I was able to encourage them to consider how they, along with their colleagues of Advocates France, might be able to serve Advocates Africa by attending the Kigali conference in 2021 to bring encouragement to our Francophone colleagues.

So many advocates globally are investing their lives in young Christian lawyers. Your financial gifts can help mobilize the next generation as they work to bring justice to their societies. We have been given a matching challenge gift of \$25,000 per year for the next four years, and we invite you to help us double, or even triple it by the end of this month. Please consider who else you know who might join our support team and invite them to participate. Your support will go a long way in helping us to make sure we honor those to whom it is due.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent M. McBurney
President & CEO



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