

JUNE 2020

**“He who dwells in the shelter of the Lord Most High
Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1**

Dear Friends,

What does the lockdown look like for you? Are you taking the opportunity to learn something new? Or perhaps you're reading a lot of books, or watching some movies that you always wanted to but never had the time for. If you are like me, you spend a good deal of time on video conference calls—for work, church services, Bible studies, and prayer meetings. For some of our Advocates, the lockdown is much different, and the challenges they face on a regular basis are amplified.

Whatever the case may be where you live, this is one time that all of us are in the same storm together. Here at Advocates, we continue to inspire and mobilize our Advocates around the globe to do justice with compassion. This month, we want to share with you a few stories of what God is doing through these brave men and women in the legal profession, in the midst of the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Protecting Religious Freedom in Pakistan

In Pakistan, the government ordered a nationwide lockdown, and like many nations, the courts are closed except for emergency cases, which include blasphemy cases. According to our good friend, Ezra Shujat, the Advocates Pakistan team is proudly driving over 3000 kilometers each week between cities in their ongoing efforts to represent men, women and children who have been charged with blasphemy under that nation's section 295C law, or are otherwise persecuted because they are believers in Jesus. The Christian Lawyers Association of Pakistan are also continuing their efforts to serve their clients across the nation. Too often, these brave lawyers find that their clients' cases are delayed by judges who do not want to face the wrath of an angry mob. Please pray that true justice will be done and religious freedom will find its place in Pakistan.

Protecting Life in Hungary

Last year Advocates played a key role to bring together a global team of pro-life experts who wrote a strong brief for our colleagues in South Australia. AI Global Council member, Mark Mudri, was the driving force behind this effort that also included doctors and lawyers.

In April, during our monthly Zoom prayer call for Advocates Europe, Agnes Danicz from Hungary asked if we had any materials that would give her team better legal ammunition for an upcoming meeting with the Ministerial Commissioner to discuss pro-life laws in Hungary.

We shared with the Hungarian team the legal brief written by the global team for the Australians. We also connected Agnes and Mark together. Mark was born in the former Yugoslavia and has an especially tender heart for that part of the world. He set up a prayer meeting to coincide with the time of the Skype meeting. Agnes shared with us the following about her meeting:

I am here to report especially you about the success all your prayers and your paper have been doing these days. Hungary feels blessed by you, guys! As I told our Ministerial Commissioner that you all are praying during our discussion, he felt deeply touched. By the way he is a pastor as well, so prayer meant him a lot and at the end of the meeting he asked us to pray together.

What a divine coincidence! Please continue to pray with us for Agnes and her colleagues in Hungary, as well as for Mark and his colleagues in South Australia, for favor in their efforts to protect the unborn.

Protecting the “Homeless” in America

Many of you will remember the story of our friend and Advocate from Kazakhstan, Timur, who found himself stuck here in America, unable to return home. After a 9-week delay due to lockdowns, he has finally begun his journey home. Please continue to pray for him and his family as he makes his way from Virginia to Almaty via Chicago, Frankfurt and Minsk. After an unexpected 3 day layover in Chicago, he is, at this writing, en route to Frankfurt, still awaiting the opening of the airport in Kazakhstan. Praise God that he was able to leave the US on the very last day before his visa expired. More divine timing!

As always, we are so grateful to each of you for your partnership with Advocates. Your prayers, especially during this time of lockdown, are so needed. Thank you. Please let us know how we can pray for you and your family during these uncertain times. Call us at **571-319-0100**, send us a note by USPS or email us at dancalle@advocatesinternational.org.

We also want to remind you that you are more than welcome to join any of the regional prayer calls with our Advocates and hear directly from them how God is blessing them and what challenges they face. If you are interested, just let us know and we’ll add your name to the email distribution list. Finally, we greatly appreciate your continued prayers and ongoing financial support.

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

Grace and Peace,

Brent M. McBurney
President & CEO



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