

NOVEMBER 2020

**“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Dear Friends,

The joyfulness of gratitude is contagious. When we hear another give thanks, it is almost impossible not to be encouraged, even when times are challenging. This month, as we in the United States prepare for our national Thanksgiving holiday, I’d like to encourage you with four of the thanksgivings recently shared by our advocates around the world.

A God of Miracles

During one of our bi-weekly prayer calls in October with Advocates Africa, sister Peruth Kiondo from Uganda gave thanks for God’s miraculous protection for her 20-month-old son, Jordan. In September, he fell about 15 feet from a balcony. When they took him to the hospital, the doctor’s found no broken bones. After four days, the neurologists determined that he sustained no brain injury and the only injury was a scratch on his cheek. All of the neighbors are joining with Peruth and her family in praising God, glorifying His name. She attributes all of it to God and His power. We join with the family in giving thanks to God.

The Innocent Released

Our advocates in Pakistan shared the great news that Sawan Masih—accused and convicted on blasphemy charges and sentenced to death in 2014—was acquitted in October by the appeals court in Lahore and released from death row after six years in prison. Judicial decisions such as these almost always lead to protests and unrest. Please continue to pray with us for our friends in that nation as they continue to risk their own safety by representing clients accused of blasphemy or families whose young daughters are abducted and forced into marriages.

A God Who Answers Prayers

Too often, many people think that God only cares about the big things. In my own experience, He is a God of the details. Tariq Tarees, an advocate from Pakistan, is a regular on most of our prayer calls. Not long ago, he asked us to pray with him and his family for his children’s educational needs. One week later, he shared that his daughter was accepted to university with a full scholarship. The following week, we gave thanks to God for his son’s admission to his new school. What a great encouragement for all of us who prayed with Tarees, to see these answered prayers.

Growth of Fellowships

Due to the pandemic, lockdowns were imposed in many nations and travel restricted, even within some countries. One of the most frequent praise reports we hear, however, is that among the Christian lawyers, there is a greater engagement with one another, from the Philippines to the UK, from France to India, and especially among our Russian speaking colleagues across Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Thanks to technology, more and more of our advocates are more easily joining each other for times of fellowship and prayer. Thank God for this growth among the fellowships.

We Give Thanks for 30 Years

In 1991, our founder Sam Ericsson heeded God's call to serve Christian lawyers, judges and law students around the globe. He spent twenty years, until his promotion to Glory in 2011, traveling around the world, encouraging those legal professionals and others to use their talents and skills to serve the Body of Christ in their nations and regions. Advocates convened five Global Convocations in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004 and 2008. Regional and national gatherings of Christian lawyers on a regular basis allow these colleagues to get to know one another personally, better enabling them to serve.

Next year, 2021, we will be celebrating three decades of ministry and we are so very grateful for all those over the years who invested in Advocates International. We want to say a huge THANK YOU to "the best staff money can't buy," to the 30,000+ advocates in over 150 nations, to the prayer warriors and financial supporters who help to keep lights on and the doors open. Each and every one of you are a critical part of our mission to ***Inspire and Mobilize Advocates Globally to Do Justice With Compassion***. We'll keep you posted as plans for a 30th Anniversary celebration get underway.

Thanks again for your continued prayers and ongoing financial support. Please let us know how we can pray for you and your family during the rest of 2020. Send us a note, call us at **571-319-0100**, or email Jon at jparamore@advocatesinternational.org.

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

Grace and Peace,



Brent M. McBurney
President & CEO



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