

## **MARCH 2021**

### **Dear Friends,**

We hope this letter finds you and your families healthy and thriving. Thank you for your faithful service to God and your community as a Christian advocate – even during this unusual and challenging period.

We write to inform you that President Brent McBurney will be leaving Advocates International on April 16, 2021. As you know, Brent has faithfully led Advocates since January 2011, demonstrating humility, grace, and love for AI's people and mission. Brent loves people, remains a dear friend to all of us in the leadership of Advocates International and Global Council, and we know he has become a friend to many of you. While this amicable parting of ways may come as a surprise to some of you, the Advocates International Board strongly believes that God calls us to different times and seasons.

In his season at the helm of Advocates, Brent has led us in important ways.

Beginning in 2012, Brent encouraged the Advocates Global Council to hold its meetings in conjunction with various regional conferences instead of meeting independently. In the years that followed, the Global Council met on five continents; this new approach allowed Global Council members to better know the Advocates around the globe and not just those within their own regions.

Brent represented Advocates International as a speaker at conferences on six continents in places from Uppsala, Sweden to Fiji. In addition to encouraging and equipping Christian advocates around the world at these gatherings, Brent served in many important roles, including:

- Assisting in the launch of the Indonesian Christian Legal Society (one of the most important tangible outcomes of the Jakarta World Prayer Assembly);
- Facilitating a team of 25 attorneys from 22 nations to help equip the Korean churches for their cultural battles for the sanctity of marriage;
- Convening a team of lawyers to lead workshops on the legal aspects of adoptions and foster care at the World Without Orphans Global Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand;
- Protecting religious freedom through his work as secretary of the Religious Liberty Partnership (45 Christian ministries whose primary focus is helping the persecuted Church).

Beginning in 2019, Brent was led to establish regular Zoom prayer meetings for each of the Advocates regions to seek God's direction. The feedback from Advocates who have been engaged is powerful, with answered prayers and tremendous encouragement of one another.

We are thankful to Brent for each of these things.

The time has now come, as one season ends, for a new ministry leader to shepherd and spearhead Advocates International through our next season of ministry, with its challenges and issues.

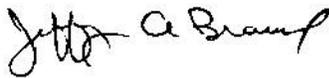
The Board has authorized a search for the next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Our prayer is that God will direct us to the man or woman who will, by His grace and power, lead the organization into a season of even greater fruitfulness by refining its strategic direction, enhancing its global operations, and strengthening its financial profile.

We seek your help in this process. If you know of qualified candidates for the role, please reach out to me ([jbrauch@regent.edu](mailto:jbrauch@regent.edu)) and Search Committee chair Pete Rathbun ([peterathbun@outlook.com](mailto:peterathbun@outlook.com)) to receive the position description and an expression of interest questionnaire.

Please also be in prayer for God's wisdom in the search process. We step forward in faith that God will lead us to His perfect choice and to fulfillment of our mission to inspire and mobilize advocates globally to do justice with compassion.

Thank you!

The Advocates International Board of Directors



Jeffrey A. Brauch  
Chair



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