

## APRIL 2021

**“In everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thess. 5:18**

**"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," Hebrews 12:1**

### Dear Friends,

Are you ever at a loss for words? Do you get writer’s block? I certainly do. As I reflected on the past decade, however, the words that immediately came to mind are **“Thank You.”** After ten years serving as Advocates’ President & CEO, I want to thank and acknowledge many on the AI team who contributed to making my time here such an amazing blessing.

First and foremost, I thank God for the blessing of serving Him in this capacity. It was my great honor to travel to all six continents to encourage, equip and enable advocates to do justice with compassion. Seeing the fruit of relationships God provided is truly wonderful, and I am surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

**Thank you** to all those who sustain this ministry with your prayers. *“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)* It is difficult to imagine how different the past ten years might have been without your prayers. What a joy to watch answered prayers across the globe. Thank you, too, for those who invested in Advocates with their finances.

Over the past ten years, I was blessed to work with an amazing team of people, without whom Advocates would not have been nearly as effective. **Thank you** so very much to the staff at the headquarters office. I am grateful to Lourdes Piscioti, Romi Kobayashi, Daniela Ancalle and Jon Paramore for serving AI in so many different ways. Each of you made the office run with effectiveness, especially when I was traveling. Advocates is better because of you, and I am grateful for your friendship.

**Thank you** to the international team who served Advocates in differing capacities over the past decade: Latcho Popov from Europe, Ruth Ross from Canada, Mark Mudri from Australia, and Pat Talbot from Indonesia. Thank you for playing your role in helping us to inspire and mobilize globally. Each of you contributed innumerably to keeping Advocates moving forward, and I appreciate your friendship.

**Thank you** to the Global Council. First, Chairman Min Choon Lee and Chairwoman Teresa Conradie, with whom I served. Each of you brought effective leadership skills to the table, and I greatly appreciate your friendship, time, and talents. Second, to each GC member, thank you for serving your regions in your personal capacities and for the investment of your time and treasures. Your friendship means a great deal to me, too.

**Thank you** to the Advocates Board of Directors for your service and oversight. Several of you traveled on behalf of AI when I was unavailable, and I greatly appreciate that. Thanks for your encouragement over the years and the investment of your time.

**Thank you** to our many Advocates around the globe who are the reason that we do what we do. Your efforts within your own nations and communities are a great inspiration to all of us. There are too many of you to name individually, but I cherish the friendships and greatly appreciate your hospitality whenever I traveled to your countries. Thanks for representing that great cloud of witnesses.

A huge **thank you** to our local volunteers. I am grateful for our volunteer accountant, Alan, who makes sure our books are balanced each month. I am also grateful for the team who faithfully come every month to help us with our newsletter mailings. Thank you so much for your precious time: Kit, Millie, Gary & Elaine, Ben & Carol, Bill & Addie, Ruth, Rosie, Maggie, Rene & Rosa, Anna, Bob & Agatha, and the occasional grandkids some of you brought along. I will miss your enthusiasm and breaking bread (*pizza*) with you each month.

Finally, I am most grateful to my family for their patience and forbearing over the last ten years. They graciously allowed me to travel the world to follow my calling and serve the Advocates family. For my wife, Elizabeth, whom many advocates got to meet when she accompanied me, **thank you** for your willingness to partner with me in this mission. For my kids, Ian and Sarah, **thank you** for your prayers for dad and your smiles on video calls when dad was half-a-world away. I'm grateful that you are growing into the man and woman of God that He is making you to be. I'm also grateful that you got to meet many of the advocates in Cape Town and Bangkok.

**Thank you** for your continued prayers and ongoing financial support. As always, please let us know how we can pray for you and your family. Send us a note, email Jon at [jparamore@advocatesinternational.org](mailto:jparamore@advocatesinternational.org), or call us at **571-319-0100**.

May God bless and keep you in His perfect . . .

Grace and Peace,



Brent M. McBurney  
President & CEO



Donate using  
this QR-Code

PS: Don't forget that Advocates accepts **gifts of stocks** through Fidelity Investments, DTC#: 0226; AI account #: Z44881848. All financial gifts are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. **Thank you**.