

## SEPTEMBER 2021

**“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith”**

### **Romans 12:4-6 (ESV)**

Dear Friends,

In the past few weeks, I have come under the profound impression of what a blessing our strategic partners have been to us at AI over the past 30 years! We continue to benefit from the precious relationships which Sam Ericsson and Brent McBurney shaped with churches, other organisations, donors, and individuals who share our vision.

The first ones who come to mind are our volunteers who have served us faithfully behind the scenes for decades – folding newsletters, filling envelopes, packing, moving stuff for convocations, and crewing in all kinds of capacities. Not to mention Alan Waldron who diligently does our books and prepares our monthly financial reports.

Our offices in Alexandria have been hosted for the past eight years by First Baptist Church Alexandria. The church and their administrator, Sam Moneyhun, have far exceeded what can be expected from a landlord! Their warm and gracious support for us has been invaluable – I especially appreciate the support in the last three months which they have given to our office manager, Ligia Vallejo, in my absence.

Since August 20, our offices are now situated at **Suite 100, Mason Enterprise Centre (MEC) of the George Mason University, 4031 University Drive, Fairfax VA 22030**. Ligia, AI board member Sam Logan and our team of volunteers put in a tremendous effort to move our office – thank you so much from all of us!

Advocates Africa has since its inception in 1999 held 12 conferences all hosted by fellowships across the continent. During August 2021 the Christian Lawyers Association of Nigeria (Clasfon) bravely hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> and first ever virtual AA conference. During the seven different sessions we were treated on a whole range of excellent presentations! It was quite an experience for me to make a presentation from South Africa with the moderator and French translator being in Kenya, and my fellow presenters speaking from Nigeria. We are indeed living in a brave new world! Our gratitude and congratulations go to our AA president, Sunny Akani, the Clasfon team and the technical directors Kamencu Kimathi, Komi Devotsu and Osmond Adejo.

It was heart warming for me to see our next generation of leaders in Africa taking the baton from us and so successfully directing the program. It inspired me afresh to invest globally in the lives of our Christian law students and young lawyers.

The Christian Legal Society of America (CLS) has always been a much-appreciated strategic partner of Advocates International. The 2021 National Conference of the CLS takes place October 28-31, 2021, on the beautiful San Antonio River Walk. The program includes excellent speakers and some amazing partner events. David Nammo, the Executive Director and CEO of CLS has extended an invitation to each of you to attend – the CLS would be pleased to have some international delegates attending. While we would not be able to offer any financial support, Ligia and I will be pleased to give assistance with visa letters and the like. You can register for the conference at <https://www.christianlegalsociety.org/2021conference>.

I have only fond memories of Immanuel Bible Church (IBC) in Springfield VA. In 1999 Sam and Bobby Ericsson were members of the church and IBC was intricately involved in the arrangements for the AI convocations. I remember becoming all choked up as I carried the South African flag in the flag parade at the Sunday morning service at IBC. Because of international sanctions and the cultural boycott of our country because of the Apartheid politics in South Africa, I had grown up largely isolated from any international contact. The tears thus flowed when I was able to proudly carry the new South African in the flag parade at IBC. On August 22 IBC hosted AI during their Ministry Highlight Sunday. The organizer of the event, Bette Hartmann, told me that she had worked with Sam Ericsson before 1991 when he was still with CLS. Another example of how good collaboration continues to produce fruit for many years.

Finally, AI would not been able to grow and prosper if it was not for our faithful donors. Sam used to ask: “If there are two people with tin cups sitting on a pavement and the one tins cup has “Aids orphans” written on it while the other has “Christian Lawyers” written on it – which tin cup will be empty?” Thank you to each one of you who have faithfully put your donation into our tin cup. I am hoping to connect personally with as many of you as possible and to share my strategic objectives with you.

Collaboration is not only a firm Biblical concept, but Scripture continues to encourage us to walk alongside each other and strengthen and support each other. There are many other strategic partners of AI who I have not mentioned above but whom we admire and appreciate. It will be my objective to do my best to develop our collaboration further with the purpose to advance God’s Kingdom agenda.

**Ecclesiastes 4:12 “*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken*”**

Warmly in Christ



Teresa Conradie  
President and CEO, Advocates International

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