



**JANUARY 2022 – IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME**

***Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened.  
Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, “Behold, I come;  
In the scroll of the book it is written of me.<sup>8</sup> I delight to do Your will, O my God,  
And Your law is within my heart.***

***Psalm 40:6-8***

Dear Friends,

As I write to you, we have just learnt of the passing of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. Upon the reading of the many tributes for him which are streaming in, I am reminded how his life has impacted the history of our country. Even if one didn't agree with him on everything he believed, he was no doubt courageous enough to make himself available again and again to the Lord for the performance of His will. He never shirked away from confronting institutionalized injustice both in opposing the apartheid regime and in criticizing the democratic government after 1994. In retrospect it is easy to see why he was awarded the Nobel peace prize and how his involvement in public life contributed to shaping what he called our “rainbow nation”. On the other hand, one must wonder how many times in the 90 years of his life, he had to wrestle with God to know what God wanted him to say or do to advance what God wanted to achieve in South Africa and internationally.

David writes in Ps 40:7 - *Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll (volume) of the book, it is written of me.”* The writer of the book of Hebrews repeats this scripture with reference to Jesus: Heb 10:5-7 *Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ...Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come, in the volume of the book it is written of Me - to do Your will, O God.’*

For me it is both fascinating and daunting that God our Father has already written in detail all the volumes of the book that He has written of each one of us. He is wanting us to discover it with a full understanding of the substance and to have the peace of knowing that we are living in accordance with His will during every minute of our earthly lives.

During the past two years, with so many people who we knew succumbing to Covid-19, I have not only become intensely aware of my own mortality but have also been challenged by the question of how I spend my short life on earth. Will I live intentionally in the next year, or will I allow myself to be consumed with and swept along by contemporary events?

With this uncertain new year lying ahead of us, we need to comprehend afresh from God what He has written in the 2022 volume of the book that He has written about us.

As busy lawyers, we seldom have the luxury of uninterrupted time to contemplate on what God wants to do with our lives. We stumble from one urgent matter to the next, often barely able to find time for personal devotions. A younger generation of Christian lawyers mostly do not have

guidance from more senior lawyers and must grapple on their own with difficult ethical and moral dilemmas.

In this coming year, we want to assist our advocates to understand how to integrate their professional lives with their faith. In consultation with our six regional boards, we want to appoint six part-time chaplains for Advocates International. Each of our chaplains will have two opportunities during 2022 to present an online devotional which will also be recorded. We further want to encourage corporate prayer by increasing participation in our current regional prayer calls.

The Christian Legal Fellowship of Canada is busy developing an exciting series of devotionals for Christian Law Students which they also want to translate into French.

Please write to me if you would like to get involved in any of these initiatives. Any financial contributions will be sincerely appreciated – amongst others, we would like to pay our chaplains a small gratuity.

I pray for each of you to persist until you know what God has written in the 2022 volume of the book of your life regarding your impact in your country and our profession!

Warmly in Christ



Teresa Conradie  
President and CEO, Advocates International

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.