



JULY 2022

**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

Dear Friends,

Like Paul did, I give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in my prayers! I continue to marvel at your generosity and grace for Advocates International and certainly do not take one of you for granted.

The old African proverb says: ***"If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together"***. Africa is a huge continent of 11,7 million square miles – to travel on your own is a challenge unless you are helped by those along the way. In the Transkei, the mountainous eastern part of South Africa, there is a beautiful custom. People often travel many miles on footpaths through the mountains. With the snow in the winter, you can easily succumb to the cold. According to an ancient custom, people make small fires every few miles of the way. After heating themselves, and before leaving the fire, they put a few more logs on it so that the next traveler would not need to start the fire again.

Helen Keller, the well-known author, lecturer, and disability activist was an awe-inspiring woman! After being stricken by illness at the age of two, she was left blind and deaf. It is nearly incomprehensible that, living in the late 1800's as a disabled female, she managed to accomplish so much. The one quote of hers which gives me some insight in how she managed to undertake as much as she did is: ***"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."***

In 2006 in Istanbul, Turkey and in 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Board of Advocates International gathered with some representatives of the various continental groups to consider how we can do justice with compassion **together**. Until that stage, Sam Ericsson and the Board had bravely made every possible attempt to expand the network of Christian lawyers across the globe. The internationals accepted the challenge and in October 2008, the Global Council of Advocates International was founded through a Memorandum of Understanding with the AI Board.

The main purposes of the **Global Council** are to develop the network, inspire those who are part of the network and mobilize our efforts in the areas of family and community, sanctity of life, peace and reconciliation, justice for the poor, religious freedom, rule of law and integrity.

Much to our delight, our brother, **Mark Mudri from Australia**, was elected as the Chairperson of the Global Council at our June meeting. Those of you who know Mark will agree that he is a Godly man full of wisdom and grace! He is an internationally recognized intercessor and carries an

immense measure of spiritual authority. Many young people across the globe proudly call Mark their mentor. His impact on the church and community in Australia has been profound!

Equally, our deputy chair, Senior Counsel **Gregory Vijayendran from Singapore**, is a leader of great acclaim and spiritual authority. Gregory has just completed a six-year term as the President of the Law Society in Singapore. He has been a prophetic voice in Advocates International and continues to lead with great wisdom and knowledge.

We are blessed that most of the members of our Global Council have been serving in the Council since its inception in 2008. Advocates Africa is represented by **Justice Mike Chibita** from Uganda, **Professor Bankole Sodipo** from Nigeria, and **Misgana Kifle** from Ethiopia. Other than **Gregory, Dongsub Sim** from South Korea and **Robin David** from India represent Advocates Asia. The representatives for Advocates Latin America are **Grisel René Arrecis** and **Elizabeth De Larios** from Guatemala and **Uziel Santana** from Brazil.

**Latchezar Popov** from Bulgaria, **Nancy Lefèvre** from France and **Eliseo Gomez-Lor** from Spain are the members from Advocates Europe while **Botrus Mansour** from Israel represents Advocates Middle East. The representatives of Advocates North America are **Ruth Ross** from Canada, **Robert Trierweiler** from the USA, and **Hyacinth Griffith** from Trinidad & Tobago. The Advocates International Board is represented on the Council by our Chairperson **Professor Jeff Brauch**, **Tim Klenk** from the USA, **Peter Gegenwart** from Germany, and **Hee Eun Lee** from South Korea.

We are indeed blessed to have these **22 formidable individuals from 29 different countries** leading our global network!

**The primary strategic objective of the Global Council is currently to develop the number of contacts in our network with the view of serving each other better. We also want to expand our fundraising base to receive donations online from across the globe.** The regional networks are currently demarcating sub-regions based on language, geographic proximity, and other common interests to enable better communication. We want to appoint a part-time liaison person for each of these sub-regions.

We will appreciate it if you can please let us have the contact details of anyone who is not currently on our list of contacts. We undertake to strictly observe the principles of the protection of personal information.

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession. As the people of God, let us go together – we will go further and be able to do much more!

Warmly in Christ



Teresa Conradie

President and CEO, Advocates International



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