

## AUGUST 2022

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

### Genesis 1:26-27

Dear Friends,

This past weekend, I had the wonderful privilege to attend a Christian Worldview seminar at the beautiful grounds of African Enterprise in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Amongst others we explored the theme "*Freed by God but imprisoned by culture*". In the presentations and our discussions, we investigated how African traditional religious and cultural practices as well as theological liberalism and man-made culture has trapped Bible-believing Christians in a place where we feel overwhelmed and powerless. Everyone agreed that the family is at the center of the cultural war. It was encouraging to see how young professionals engaged with the need for moral, Biblical foundations.

Esteban Zambrano, a Chilean missionary working in Haiti since 2011, was kidnapped in June in Port-au-Prince by two armed men while driving with his six-year-old daughter in the country's capital. He was on his way to a school where he teaches Spanish and Bible lessons. Esteban managed to convince his kidnappers to release his daughter. Through the tireless efforts of Consejo Directivo, the Christian lawyers of Chile and others, Esteban was set free a few days later! I was again reminded what can be achieved when we use our training, experience and networks to seek justice. We will be recording the story and will place it on our website.

The US Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* is obviously of importance to Christian lawyers across the globe. For those of us who have been in the trenches of the pro-life battle in other jurisdictions for many years, the challenge is to be able to understand how God wants us to respond. I believe we should reflect on the question: What is the source of human rights and social justice? By what authority can a person or a community claim certain rights? And can we claim those rights without assuming the responsibilities which go with them?

In today's world, we are awash in "rights talk," but virtually never do we hear anyone explain the authority underlying a particular claim of rights, other than perhaps to argue that a certain right is derivative from a statute or a constitution or a UN declaration. As a global network of Christian lawyer fellowships, perhaps we have something important to share at this time, to prompt at least some people to think deeply about where genuine rights come from, and what authority justifies them.

Peter Rathbun, former Board member of AI, writes: "*The founders of the American republic were quite clear on the source of human rights. In their Declaration of Independence, which has been modeled by many other nations, they affirmed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they **are endowed by***

*their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” This statement of the divine source of human rights was not able to be fully put into practice at the nation’s founding, yet it has continued to inspire, and its force was such that those who sought to defend and extend slavery were forced to deny the truth of this founding statement in order so support their arguments. Unfortunately, this principle of the divine source of human rights has long since fallen out of favor.”*

We are very excited to be meeting with several of our international lawyers at the FLAG conference in Cambridge in September. I am delighted that no less than 12 Christian Lawyers from Eastern Europe will be attending! Many of them are young people at the start of their careers in law. Please pray with me that there will be sufficient funding to bring them to the conference and that all of them will be successful in obtaining visas. It would be a great encouragement to these lawyers if you were able to donate towards their travel, accommodation and registration costs.

After not meeting in person for three years, **Advocates Africa** is holding its conference from **November 2-4 in Entebbe, Uganda on the shores of the beautiful Lake Victoria**. If you have never attended an AA conference, you have not experienced how the joy of the Lord can be expressed in song, dance and fellowship! We will be providing more information shortly but please save the date.

The **2022 Christian Legal Society National Conference** takes place in Newport Beach, California from October 6-9. This year’s theme is “Seeking His Kingdom”. As always, the program is top-class with excellent speakers! Registrations are open – please let us know if we can assist you with a letter of invitation for visa purposes.

Following a recent assessment by the **Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability**, we were found to be in full compliance with ECFA Standards of Responsible Stewardship and were commended for our commitment to these Standards. I want to commend Ligia Vallejo, our office manager and Alan Waldron, our accountant, for their efforts to ensure that our financial records are meticulously maintained. Our sincere desire is to be faithful stewards of what God gives us.

Thank you once again for your generous financial contributions to Advocates International! As of June 30, we are still in need of an amount of \$ 400 000 to meet our 2022 income budget. At present, we are focused on capacity building to be able to effectively conduct our various programs. If you believe in our vision, please pray about supporting us financially.

Warmly in Christ



Teresa Conradie

President and CEO, Advocates International



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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.