

OCTOBER 2022

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much once again for your continued financial support. You will see from my letter below that your donations have been inspiring and mobilizing our advocates worldwide to do justice with compassion!

I start off on a very sad note. You would have learnt from media reports that Kenneth Starr passed away on September 13. Ken had for many years, until his demise, served on our board of directors with loyalty and distinction. So many good things have already been said in the media about Ken and I echo each one of them! We have always regarded ourselves as unusually privileged to have a person of Ken's stature serve on our board. I often wondered how many similar invitations Ken must have received during his lifetime and each time appreciated anew how valuable Ken's contribution of time and wisdom were for us. On a personal level, I so much treasured Ken's and Alice's encouragement and affirmation for me – I never took it for granted. Our sincere condolences go to Alice and her family – words fail to express our grief at your huge loss.

In all respects, September was an eventful month! Mark Mudri, the chair of our Global Council, and I arrived in London on September 8, coinciding with the announcement of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. En route, Mark had visited Gregory Vijayendran, the deputy chair of the Global Council in Singapore.

Mark and I had the privilege of attending part of the Wilberforce Academy presented by Christian Concern at the University of Roehampton. It was wonderful to catch up with our dear friends Andrea Williams and Andrew Marsh and get to know some of their new team members. We really want to commend Andrea and her team – every time I have had the privilege to attend the Academy, the standard has been higher than before, and the diversity of the professions represented extended. Judging by our informal discussions with some of the delegates, this is indeed a life changing event for so many of these young people!

While in London, we were delighted to meet with John Langlois OBE, one of the founding directors of Advocates International. Looking as sprightly as ever, John agreed to join us for the FLAG conference in Cambridge.

On September 15, we hosted a Global Council meeting in Cambridge where representatives of 22 different countries each made short presentations about the well-being of the Christian lawyers in their countries and told us what the greatest challenges are that they are facing. We prayed for every one of these countries, some of them suffering heart rendering trials. Lakuita Bittle of the US Christian Legal Society, Dr Felix Boelmann of Alliance Defending Freedom International as well as Andrea Williams of Christian Concern introduced their organisations to the delegates. Two of the highlights of the program were the personal testimonies of John Langlois OBE and Justice Mike Chibita from Uganda. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing – I was particularly encouraged how many younger lawyers from Advocates Europe were representing their countries. The Chairman of Advocates Europe, Latchezar Popov, plays a huge role in finding new contacts in Europe and mentoring and encouraging them.

The conference, which was co-hosted by Faith & Law around the Globe, the Lawyers Christian Fellowship of the UK and Christ & Jurist of Germany was a resounding success! The program was superbly put together and the opportunities for fellowship were many. We met several international Christian lawyers which we did not know before.

On September 24, the 13th Convention of the FIAJC (Advocates Latin America) was hosted online by AGANC (the Guatemalan Association of Christian Lawyers). The theme of the convention was "Invoking the name of God" and was attended by around 140 lawyers. The speakers emphasized that Christianity is a lifestyle, not a religion and that we should testify through our words but especially through our actions – integrating our faith, speech, and conduct. It was wonderful to see as one of the speakers, an old friend, Dr Gerardo Amarilla. Two new fellowships, from Honduras and the Dominican Republic, joined FIAJC at the event. Elizabeth de Larios and Grisel Arrecis were confirmed as the Latin American members of the Global Council.

The 15th Biennial Convocation of Advocates Africa is being from November 2-6 at the Imperial Beach Resort Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda. The very appropriate theme for a time such as this is: "*Positioning the Christian lawyer to thrive through a volatile, complex and ambiguous world*". Registrations are open at <https://forms.gle/etkntSBYoSthuXse8>. The Ugandan Christian Lawyers Fellowship is working very hard to make this a memorable event!

It was an unforgettable experience to be in London during the time of mourning and the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Together with many other intercessors, Mark and I prayed that her funeral, which was the largest televised event in history, would not just be the anticipated display of age-old pageantry, ceremony and ritual, but would first and foremost proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amongst the readings at the funeral was 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. I quote a few sentences from the sermon of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby:

"The pattern for all who serve God – famous or obscure, respected or ignored – is that death is the door to glory"

"Jesus – who in our reading does not tell his disciples how to follow, but who to follow – said: 'I am the way, the truth and the life'".

"Her Late Majesty's example was not set through her position or her ambition, but through whom she followed."

"Her service to so many people in this nation, the Commonwealth, and the world, had its foundation in her following Christ – God himself – who said that he 'came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

We praise God for His continued faithfulness and endure to pray that, through this message and many others, millions across the globe will come to know that we can be made alive in Christ.

Warmly in Christ



Teresa Conradie

President and CEO, Advocates International



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