

MARCH 2023

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call]. Romans 11:29 (Amp)

Dear Friends,

We continuously thank God for your financial support without which we would not be able to persist in our mission to do justice with compassion globally. Personally, I am so grateful for the e-mails of encouragement which I receive from many of you!

On March 1, 1975, I surrendered my life to Christ. I was at high school and during my first ever Students' Christian Association meeting, the preacher explained John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I instantly understood and accepted what the atonement of the blood of Christ did for me. I still remember the peace and delight I experienced after making my decision to accept Christ!

In my journey over the next 48 years, many times, I stumbled and moved away from God's presence, following my own ways, trusting in my own plans. So often heartache and anguish followed my willfulness. At other times I felt close to God, enjoying fellowship with Him, and experiencing the peace and joy of walking with Him. Again, and again God poured out His mercy and His grace on me!

In the past week, as I was reflecting on this, I read Romans 11:29. How unfathomable is it, that despite all my wanderings and detours, God has never and will not revoke the gifts and calling He has for me! He has not changed His mind about His design for my life, but every time patiently waits for me to come round, repent and recommit to Him. Knowing that God will not revoke my calling, gives me great confidence that He will give me everything I need to fulfill His purpose for my life.

In my January newsletter I told you a bit more about our volunteers. In this newsletter I want to introduce you to our board members. We are blessed and privileged to have a corps of leaders who, despite their individual stature, are faithful, humble, wise and serve Advocates International with great distinction!

The Chairman of our board is **Professor Jeffrey A. Brauch**, a former Dean of Regent University School of Law. Prof Brauch is now the Executive Director of the Centre for Global Justice at the Regent School of Law. During his teaching career, his wisdom and compassion has impacted the lives of a great number of students. He leads our board with distinction!

Calvin W. Beresh is the Deputy Chair of our board. Cal is the founder of Beresh Smith barristers and solicitors in Niagara Falls, Canada. Cal has been a faithful member of the Christian Legal Fellowship in Canada. He is passionate about ministering to and mentoring Christian law students and has a heart for prayer and chaplaincy for lawyers.

Professor **Hee Eun Lee** is the Secretary of our board. He is the Associate Dean and a Professor of Law at Handong International Law School in Pohang, Korea. Professor Lee is an acclaimed author many publications and is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Asian Yearbook of International Law* published by Brill. He brings an invaluable insight into law and religion in Northeast Asia to our Board.

Dr. Nathan A. Adams IV is the treasurer of the board. He is a partner of Holland & Knight LLP in Tallahassee, Florida. Dr Adams is a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission of the Florida First District Court of Appeal and Chair of the Education Law Committee of the Florida bar. During his esteemed career he has represented many nonprofit and religious institutions. He has authored many authoritative articles on religion and law.

Tim Klenk serves on our executive committee. Until his retirement, Tim practiced employment law in Chicago, IL, at McGuireWoods. With nearly 60 years of legal experience and serving on several boards,

Tim's contribution is invaluable to our board. He is our longest serving board member and his institutional memory is indeed a treasure. Tim and his wife Jo most probably know more international Christian lawyers than the rest of us.

Board member **Dean Morse H Tan**, who was appointed as a board member recently, is currently the Dean of Liberty University School of Law. Dean Tan previously served on the Board of Advocates International for several years until April 2019 when he was appointed as Ambassador at Large for the U.S. State Department's Office of Global Criminal Justice, where he oversaw the indictment, sanctioning, capture, and/or conviction of war criminals in Sri Lanka, Rwanda, the Balkans, and Lebanon. His experience of international affairs is of great value to AI.

Mark Mudri is not only a board member but also serves as the Chairman of the Global Council of Advocates International. He is a veteran prayer warrior of our network who was awarded the Good Samaritan award of AI in 2008. After being in private practice for many years, Mark became chief of staff of senator Lucy Gichuhi, the first African senator in the South Australia parliament. Mark currently heads up the South Australia Church Relations Office of the Australian Bible Society.

Board member **David Nammo** has served as executive director and CEO of Christian Legal Society since 2012. He is the former executive vice president of the Leadership Project for America and was also the executive director of the Family Research Council Action. David has been interviewed by national and international media, including the NBC Nightly News, Fox News, the Associated Press, CBN News, as well as various radio stations from across the country and around the globe. His op-eds have been published in USA Today, the Washington Times, the National Review, and many online news sites. David is the indispensable link between AI and the CLS.

We are privileged to have on board, Benjamin W Bull Esq. He is currently Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation. He is an experienced constitutional lawyer and former prosecutor, who, with great success has prevented the spread of illegal pornography, winning more than 14 jury trials against pornographers without a loss. Ben was the founder and Executive Director of ADF International, a leading global human rights organization. He also served as founding Executive Director of the European Center for Law and Justice in Strasbourg, France. Ben's experience in the international arena is of immense value to us!

I got to know board member **Tehmina C Arora** when she was a young lawyer attending AI convocations. She is indeed a remarkable woman who has achieved much in her career. Tehmina is an expert in constitutional law and human rights with a special emphasis on minority rights and religious freedom. She is passionate about the plight of women specifically those who are persecuted because of their gender. She is currently Director of Advocacy of the Alliance Defending Freedom India and also serves in the leadership of the Religious Liberty Partnership. She has written countless articles on human rights issues and has been published in leading national newspapers and magazines. Tehmina is frequently requested to speak at seminars and conferences across the Globe.

As we enter this new month, let us remind ourselves that, despite anything, God gifts for us and His calling on our lives is irrevocable!

Warmly in Christ



Teresa Conradie

President and CEO, Advocates International



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