

OCTOBER 2023

“Many plans are in a man’s mind, but it is the LORD’s purpose for him that will stand (be carried out)” Proverbs 19:21 (AMP)

Dear Friends,

Thank you from the depth of our hearts for your continued and generous giving to Advocates’ work! During October I will be on a three-week trip to Virginia, Maine, Florida, Tennessee, California, Washington, and Colorado to meet with potential benefactors. Please pray with me for divine meetings and charitable hearts of those who I meet with.

I wrote in my previous newsletters about the first launch of The Daniel Project in Africa in July in Uganda, Nigeria, and Kenya. The focus of the Project is to identify Christian lawyers who desire to be trained and equipped to combat religious persecution in their own countries. Nigeria is one of the eleven countries in the world where Christians suffer **extreme persecution** and by far the African country with the highest number of deaths resulting from this persecution. You can imagine my joy when I learnt that **56 Christian lawyers from across Nigeria have signed up to be trained in the Daniel Project!** In the Nigerian states where persecution is the worst, such a commitment comes with evident personal and occupational risks and a risk to your family. Let us unite in prayer with the Christian Lawyers Association of Nigeria (Clasfon) as they prepare the training material and ask God to draw a dome of protection over everyone who is involved in the Project. Please don’t hesitate to let us know if you want to know more about the Project or get involved in any manner.

In September, our global network was shaken by the news of the passing of our dearest sister Misgana Kifle at the age of 37! Misgana or Misgi, as we knew her, is survived by her husband, Yared, and two little girls, Ketu (6), and Yohana (3 months old). Misgi was the chairperson of the Ethiopian Christian Lawyers Fellowship and one of the three African members on our Global Council. At the time of her death, she was serving as Chief of the Office of the Speaker in the Ethiopian Parliament.

Only a year after its establishment in 2008, the Ethiopian Christian Lawyers Fellowship hosted the 8th Advocates Africa Convocation. Dr Tibebu Gashu and his band of students presented a most successful convocation! It was at this occasion that I met the beautiful Misgi. We immediately had a connection. I asked her a question which I often ask when I meet Christian law students – how do you believe God wants to use your training as a lawyer? Without blinking, Misgi said: – *“I believe I will become the first female Prime Minister of Ethiopia”*.

In the following 15 years Misgi became like a daughter to me. I was privileged to be a witness of her growth as a leader, wife, and mother. Wherever Misgi was, things happened, and they happened in an organized and efficient manner! She had the ability to inspire and mobilize people – even though she was younger than most of them! On behalf of Advocates Africa, Misgana was a pioneer attendee of the summits of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul, the Gambia. She was greatly esteemed as a trained peacemaker and worked closely with Ken Sande’s Relational Wisdom 360. The young Advocates Africa leaders looked to her for advice on how to organize students and their national fellowships.

Misgi was a woman of prayer and intercession. Since her passing, I have heard from so many people who accounted how she prayed for them without giving up or becoming weary.

In the past weeks since Misgi's passing, I have wondered whether, in some way, she didn't perhaps know that she will die young. Why was it that, in comparison to her peers, she lived such an intentional, purposeful life. With wisdom and maturity way beyond her years, she led other people, influenced, and taught them, even if they were much older than she was.

Whenever I thought of Misgi, I was reminded of Queen Esther. As a woman gifted with beauty and grace, as well as obedience and intelligence, Esther first asked for deep prayer and fasting from the Jews, and she fasted herself. She knew she could accomplish nothing without the blessing of the Lord.

I have a friend who says that God's purpose for our lives is never removed from what He has purposed for our country. In some way, Misgi and my discussions always included her beloved Ethiopia. Given her exceptional leadership qualities which she gave so freely and intentionally to Ethiopia and indeed to the continent of Africa, the words of Esther 4:14b was true of her: *"And who knows whether you have attained royalty for such a time as this [and for this very purpose]?"*

Pastor Rick Warren's very popular 2002 book *"The Purpose-Driven Life*, encouraged individuals to ask, "What am I here for?" and told them that they were planned for God's pleasure, formed for God's family, created to become like Christ, shaped for serving God, and made for a mission. The book persuaded all of those who read it to intentionally seek and pursue their God-given purpose in this life on earth.

Misgi's passing again reminded me to ask myself those important questions. The words of Ephesians 1:11 come to mind: *"In him we were also chosen **having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,** ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory."* These verses prompt me to never lose sight of the fact that my life is not my own to be lived at my terms and that God designed His purpose for my life before I was born and in accordance with His will and that my life is intended for the praise of his glory.

My prayer is that, at the end of my life, it will be said of me what was said of David in Acts 13:36: *"**Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.**"*

I am looking forward to being attending the Christian Legal Society National Conference which is being held in Boston MA from Oct 5-8 and the 33rd Annual Global Conference of Transform Our World in Santa Clara CA from Oct 25-28.

Let us continue to press into God to fulfill our purpose in our generation, to glorify Him and advance His Kingdom agenda!

Warmly in Christ



Teresa Conradie

President and CEO, Advocates International



Donate using
this QR-Code