

The Heart of An Advocate

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves..." Proverbs 31:8

Advocacy Is...

- ...the act of pleading for someone else
- ...defending or standing up for someone else's cause.
- ...speaking out for those without a voice.
- ...interceding on behalf of another.
- ...bridging the gap between the need and the supply.
- ...linking hands of hurt with hands of help.
- ...connecting servants with sources.
- ...love that acts and faith that works.
- ...the natural expression of eyes that have seen, ears that have heard, and hearts that have been broken..

For ANM Advocacy Is...

- ...the reason for our being.
- ...the essence of our existence.
- ...the passion of our purpose.
- ...the mission of our ministry
- ...the "why" of our "what."

It is Who We Are!

Advocacy Is to ANM As...

- ...air is to the body, without it we suffocate!
- ...fuel is to the engine, without it we go nowhere!
- ...the sun is to our solar system, without it we grow cold!
- ...love is to a marriage, without it we become calculated and boring!
- ...magnetic north is to the compass, without it we lose our way!
- ...the hub is to the wheel, without it we are but loose spokes in a big circle!

It is Who We Are!

It is the litmus test of every branch of this mission, either in it's commencement or in it's continuance. Does it generate advocacy? Will it help lift the load for those standing in the "long lines"?

Our ministry is not primarily that of conducting conferences, distributing goods, holding services, educating believers, and constructing buildings—all of which are important in themselves. Our ministry is first and foremost that of advocacy—pleading, interceding before God and men for our brothers and sisters, native missionaries and mission leaders around the world who diligently strive to reach the unreached and the least-reached with the message of Hope in Christ!

Without this clear focus, we become lazy and self-obsessive, more concerned about "us" than "them". Without maintaining and monitoring the original vision of advocacy, the pictures on our hall walls become hollow images and forgotten faces.

If the vision of ANM is advocacy...

Then the people of ANM must share that same vision!

You are more than "pencil-pushers" and "paper-shufflers." You are Advocates!

You are more than "bean-counters" and "envelope-stuffers." You are Advocates!

You are more than "program-planners" and "meeting-managers." You are Advocates!

You are more than "warehouse-wizards" and "nail-drivers." You are Advocates!

You are more than "administrative-gurus" and "Bible-thumpers." You are Advocates!

You are more than what you sometimes seem to be... You are "World Changers," "Load Lifters," "Burden-Bearers" serving in the greatest institution to ever grace the planet—
The Church of Jesus Christ!

Lord, May We Be Found Faithful!

I Am An Advocate Because...

I heard about my brothers, I visited their work, and God broke my heart!

Revelation has meant responsibility!

The unreached and the least-reached are perishing in the night.

My brothers are struggling, not for lack of commitment and faith,
but for lack of tools and means to accomplish the task.

80% of the world's evangelical wealth is in North America.

I am not the best advocate, but I intend to do my best!

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

I Am An Advocate!

I cannot carry everybody's burdens, but I can help carry somebody's.

I Am An Advocate!

I cannot hug every native missionary, but I can hug some.

I Am An Advocate!

I cannot change the whole world, but I can sure enough change some part of it.

I Am An Advocate!

I cannot speak loud enough for everyone to hear my voice,
but, brothers, I promise to tell your stories to anyone who will listen.

I Am Your Advocate!

You Can Count On It! It Is Who We Are!

Jerry Harding

Address given at ANM Staff Retreat

July 13, 2006