Cord

Peace through Partnership

Prayer

Issue 5 - 2011

Jesus Prince of Peace

We pray for peace between
nation and nation,

For peace between neighbour
and neighbour,

We pray for peace in the
hearts of all your people.

Jesus Prince of Peace,

Where there is hostility
bring reconciliation,

Where there is discord
bring harmony,

Where there is hurt
bring healing.

Jesus Prince of Peace,

We pray for peace on earth.

Amen

Margaret Bowdler
Cord Supporter

Focus on Burundi

As the year draws to a close, Cord Burundi continues its remit to help the thousands of refugees who have returned home and are rebuilding their lives in the remote hill villages of Rutana.

Two further new schools have recently been completed, providing light and airy new classrooms for well over a thousand children.

Decent homes continue to be built by the community for those surviving in inadequate shelters; while a pineapple juice extraction unit has opened to provide an income for hill villagers and to support the wider community.

FSC Mark Here

November/

NOVEMBER 21 – 27

Give thanks for the tireless work of our Cord Burundi team as they continue to encourage and support all those who benefit from our programme in this tiny African country.

Offer prayers for our ongoing partnership with the Association for the Defence of Women (ADDF) which is enabling hundreds of women to realise their potential through the comprehensive literacy project.

Help them to be inspired by their teachers and empowered by all they learn to improve their life chances.

NOVEMBER 28 – DEC 4

This week as we mark World AIDS day (Dec 1) remember the 25 million people who have died from HIV related causes and the 15 million children who have been orphaned by the disease. Ask that they may not feel alone as they face a future of uncertainty.

Our staff and partners are working amongst people and communities affected by HIV and AIDS; supporting them in practical ways and helping them to overcome discrimination and stigma.

Ask for God's blessing on our work in Burundi, that international donors and supporters may continue to fund the programme through the coming year.

DECEMBER 5 - 11

As we celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10, reflect on the privileges we enjoy as part of a free and democratic society and thank God for this.

Pray for all those around the world for whom such freedom remains elusive, that they would know your comfort and your strength.

Ask that those in power realise the importance of endorsing fairer and more equitable rights for all peoples.

Pray for ourselves that we would have the courage and resolve to advocate for this.

December/

DECEMBER 12 - 18

Remember in your prayers Cord's team in Chad who continue to work with the 85,000 refugees in the four camps of Farchana, Gaga, Bredjing and Treguine. As the Sudanese refugees prepare to mark their eighth year in exile from Darfur, ask for God's blessing on their patience and tolerance in waiting for peace and a chance to return home.

Give thanks for all those who run the education programme across 23 primary schools, the pre schools and literacy groups. May their fortitude amidst adversity bear fruit in helping to build tolerance and understanding for a future generation.

DECEMBER 19 - 25

During this Christmas Season offer your thanks for God's great love for all people, whatever their faith or if they have no faith. Give thanks that God sent His Son – the Prince of Peace - to be born and to die for us.

As we celebrate let us spend a few minutes quietly praying for God's peace for people for whom today is just another day spent building peace after war and violent conflict.

Let us remember that peacebuilding is a long-term process, measured in years, decades and generations. Changing individuals' behaviour cannot be imposed from outside, only nurtured in mutually accountable relationships.

DECEMBER 26 - JAN 1

It would not be possible to help people build peace after years of violent conflict without the backing of Cord's supporters. This includes financial support, prayer and voluntary help. Give thanks for all the individuals, churches and schools who at the start of this new calendar year have resolved to support Cord's work.

Offer your prayers for the continuing investment of Cord's international government donors especially the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, UNICEF, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (USA), the European Commission and Jersey and Guernsey Overseas Aid Commissions.

Thank God for Cord's corporate and trust supporters; pray that their faith and trust in Cord's work continues through 2012.

Focus on Chad

The exciting introduction of solar cookers – 'the cookit' - to the refugee camps in Chad, has proved a real winner. By harnessing the power of the sun in this simple device, the Sudanese are now able to cook a variety of delicious and nourishing meals without the need for gathering firewood – a laborious and dangerous task as women ventured far from the camp and were prone to attack. Environmentally harnessing solar power is a vital way of preventing the continual deforestation of this remote and harsh landscape.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6 NIV

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Focus on Cambodia

About 80% of Cambodia's 14 million people live in rural areas, where the vast majority depend on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood.

Climate change is a major threat, making Cambodia's poor increasingly vulnerable. Recent flooding in which hundreds lost their lives and thousands evacuated their homes has wrought devastation across much of the country.

Cord's partners are responding to the disaster, addressing local needs with local action and solutions, a move in accord with the country's Ministry of Environment, who say local support is key to addressing the urgent problems.

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January/

JANUARY 2 - 8

As we begin a new year, offer prayers for the people of rural Cambodia who have faced loss, evacuation and the destruction of their crops due to the floods.

Offer thanks for Cord's partners in Cambodia, PNKS and Banteay Srei who have provided emergency support to those families badly affected, particularly in the Pourk district.

Remember those who lost their lives and pray for their loved ones as they begin to rebuild their lives.

JANUARY 9 - 15

Pray this week for the Cord Cambodia team as it develops and widens its remit to support local partners.

Give thanks for the experience and ingenuity of our staff as they work with grass roots organisations.

Offer prayers for the continuing financial support from international donors who see the value of all Cord is doing to create a civil society in a country still reverberating from the effects of the Khmer Rouge regime.

JANUARY 16 - 22

Ask that God blesses all those facing the challenge of developing sound solutions to Cambodia's increasing problem of climate change.

As the change in weather patterns threatens the country's staple crop of rice, pray that all those reliant on farming for a livelihood are supported in finding ways of minimising the impact on their well being and ability to earn an income.

JANUARY 23 - 29

Direct your thoughts to the world's 'bottom billion'- those people who are living on less than $1 US a day.

Ask that in this time of global recession those of us who are well provided for do not lose sight of their plight and recognise that it is the poorest of the poor who pay the greatest price.

JANUARY 30 - FEB 6

Pray this week for Cord's trustees who give of their time and expertise to facilitate the smooth and effective running of our organisation.

May they continue to make wise and considered decisions in support of Cord's management team during this our 45th year of operation.

Ask that God will guide all Cord's staff as we strive to create His kingdom here on earth.