reflect

Resources to help you reflect and pray for communities around the world

October 2026 – February 2027

An invitation to pray for Cord

Cord

Welcome...

Hello and a very warm welcome to the latest edition of Reflect, the prayer diary for Cord supporters. I'm writing this introduction on a bright fresh October morning. The sunshine is streaming through my window and warming my back. It's beautiful and almost summery. But, even now, I'm conscious of the dark and cold months that lie ahead. I won't be able to have my window open for many more weeks. Various people have been telling me that we're in for a long, extremely chilly winter. My huge warm coat is hanging up, ready for action, and I suppose at some point I'll have to think about putting on the heating!

Sometimes we're aware of challenges that we'll face; sometimes they appear from nowhere. On occasions we can make preparations, other times we're caught off guard. Even with careful planning, life can be incredibly difficult and sometimes we can feel despair.

Here at Cord we work in some of the world's most challenging places. Our projects are meticulously planned and carefully designed. But, we have no control over the actions of governments and other powerholders. Sometimes things change very quickly and dramatically. In such situations we have to pause, consider, and adapt our activities. It can be frustrating and inconvenient but it's a fact of life.

We know that throughout these challenges, whatever we face, God is with us. We trust in His love, purposes and provision. That is why we invite you to pray with us, for the peacebuilding life-changing work that He has called us to.

And, in your own life, whatever the next few months have in store - whether you have a good idea of what's going to happen, or absolutely no idea - I trust that His love and provision will guide and sustain you.

Thank you for praying for our work and building peace in our fragile and fractured world.

Nick Thorley
Fundraising Manager

25 – 31 October

Laos is in the world's top ten most dangerous countries for minority religious groups – including Christians. Through our PLURAL project (Promoting Rule of Law and Understanding of Religious Affairs in Laos) we're working with the Government together with communities and local faith groups. Our partners are currently carrying out research into all kinds of things facing people of faith, including disability, unemployment and social media. Pray that this research, and the increased awareness it brings, encourages more understanding and tolerance. Please also pray for courage, as there can be serious repercussions if people express views that challenge mainstream ideas.

1 – 7 November

Through our new Safer Futures project, we're working with the Swedish Christian child rights charity, ERIKS. We're training their project staff, and their partners, in our peacebuilding approach. We're sharing our experience of working in complicated situations and coordinating activities involving lots of different people. One thing we're helping them to do is to get whole communities involved in promoting the rights of children, not just individual teachers or leaders. Please pray that this training - that is now underway - builds a brilliant foundation for this long-term partnership.

8 – 14 November

In Burundi, we're working with around 1,000 young people across six youth centres. Each month they are exploring various themes including community tensions, trauma healing and peacebuilding. Some of the young people were trained in interactive theatre. They recently performed in different communities, creating opportunities for people to engage with these important issues. Pray for the communities they reached. Pray that people will be open to the messages they shared, and that these performances will encourage understanding and trust, and lead to long-term peace.

15 – 21 November

In Cambodia, foreign large-scale mining, farming and fishing companies often cause conflict. They damage the environment and drive Indigenous People from their land. The SABRE project (Strengthening Accountable Business practices through Respect and Engagement) brought together local communities, government authorities and multinational corporations to build peace by working through the emerging issues together. As this project draws to a close, please ask for God's blessing on a major event on Monday and Tuesday this week where the successes, challenges and learning from this unique project will be shared and discussed. May this event help to consolidate and reinforce all that has been achieved, attract funding for similar projects, and may cooperation between these different groups last long into the future.

As wise as snakes and as innocent as doves

A reflection from Cord's Chair of Trustees, Kat Brealey

"Listen carefully: I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; so be wise as serpents, and innocent as doves."

Matthew 10:16 (Amplified Bible)

This is one of my favourite Bible verses. It's a great maxim for life and is applicable in so many situations. It's also incredibly relevant to Cord and I often quote it when talking about our work.

Cord operates in some of the world's most challenging contexts. We have to be wise in the way we act. This is especially true when we engage with authorities and powerholders. We know that they don't always have the best interest of communities at heart. We have to tread carefully. We don't want to put people at risk.

But, on the other hand, we want to be as innocent as doves. Those in power are people too. We want to enter into genuine relationships with them whenever possible. We are not going to assume the worst of them or suspect them of making damaging decisions at every turn.

Our peacebuilding work depends on developing trust and helping relationships to form between different groups. It can be slow and complex. But we have faith that, by being wise as serpents, and innocent as doves, we can achieve this ambition and ultimately build long lasting peace.

Read our interview with Kat about her visit to Cord's projects in Laos, in the latest edition of Connect. If you would like to write a reflection for our prayer diary, please email info@cord.org.uk

22 – 28 November

Please continue to pray for our new Safer Futures project with the Swedish Christian child rights charity, ERIKS. We're training their project staff, and their partners, in our peacebuilding approach. They are working in very different areas, from western Africa, to Ukraine, to Bangladesh. There are similarities but also huge differences in context, in these locations. Ask God to help us collaborate effectively with the local teams as they apply our training, so that it has a real impact in each situation.

29 November – 5 December

This week let us pray for our Big Give Christmas Challenge which launches at 12 noon this Tuesday, 1 December. As usual, for 7 days, until midday on Tuesday 8 December, every donation to Cord made online, will be matched pound for pound. So, whatever you give, it will have twice the impact. Please pray that we have a successful appeal as this is always our most important fundraising moment of the year. And do give generously if you can!

6 – 12 December

Thanks to our long-term commitment to supporting grassroots organisations in Laos, we are trusted by the Government. We are delighted to be working with them to promote freedom of religion and belief and promote women's right to land in rural areas. In recent months there have been various restructures that have caused some delays in our work. Please ask God to protect our project, sustain our positive relationship with the Government, and enable this vital initiative to move forward swiftly.

13 – 19 December

As our SABRE project draws to a close at the end of the year, please pray that all the key activities would be completed. This is the climax of three years of working with Indigenous Communities, government officials and multinational corporations in Cambodia. We have helped them to develop relationships, build trust and cooperate to find lasting solutions. Specifically, please pray that the two mining companies we're working with, agree on and sign up to, best practice approaches, before the end of December. Please pray that despite the pressure to finish work on time, that it isn't rushed and engagement remains meaningful and fruitful.

20 – 26 December

Loving God, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, may His light shine into places marked by conflict, fear and division. We pray for all those who work for Cord, and the staff who work for Cord's many partners. Give them courage, wisdom and compassion as they walk alongside communities affected by conflict. May this Christmas renew our hope that peace is possible, and inspire us to be people who listen, forgive and build bridges. May Your peace fill every heart, home and community where Cord is working. Amen.

27 December – 2 January

Please bring before God our Trustees, giving thanks for their hard work, diligence and commitment to Cord's mission. Pray that God would continue to give them wisdom, strength and discernment as they guide and support our peacebuilding work. We also give thanks for the three Trustees who recently visited our team in Laos. Thank God for the encouragement their visit brought to the Laos team and partners, and for the stories, experiences and insights they have brought back to share with us all.

3 – 9 January

Let us give thanks for the counsellors who are part of Cord's Peace Project in Burundi. They listen with compassion and walk alongside those who carry deep wounds of trauma. Please pray for strength and wisdom as they carry the stories of others. Give thanks for the support they receive through Healing Days – time for them to support one another and process their work together. May the work of these counsellors bring relief and peace to individuals, families and communities, helping to build a more peaceful future for Burundi.

10 – 16 January

We rejoice in our work with Indigenous Communities, government officials and multinational corporations in Cambodia. Through our SABRE project, we have helped them to develop relationships, build trust and work together. This has resulted in more protection for Cambodia's forests, and the communities that depend on them. We ask God to help us find new funding so that we can build on this work in Cambodia, applying all that we've learned through the SABRE project.

17 – 23 January

As we continue to support the poorest women in rural Laos to gain land rights and a voice in their communities, ask God to bless all the mini projects that are being delivered over the coming months. This is a chance for women leaders to apply the main aspects of the ALLOWED (Access to Land – Lao Women's Economic Development) project to their local community; leadership, decision-making and economic security. Please ask God to open the hearts of everyone in these communities to see the tremendous benefit of this work in building peace and prosperity.

24 – 30 January

We thank God for everyone who makes a regular donation to Cord, whose faithful generosity makes our peacebuilding work around the world possible. Pray that they would know how much their commitment means, and that God would bless them for the difference they help to make. We also celebrate the trusts and foundations who support Cord's work. May these partnerships continue to grow, enabling Cord and our partners to reach more communities; bringing lasting change to people affected by conflict and injustice.

31 January – 6 February

Our partnership with the child rights organisation ERIKS gives us the opportunity to extend our peacebuilding work into new countries. Please pray for progress with the work in Ukraine and Moldova, where there have been a number of delays. Ask God to remove the practical obstacles and bring momentum to the teams involved. May this partnership flourish and enable Cord and ERIKS to bring greater safety and prosperity to children in parts of Africa, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

7 – 13 February

Please remember Burundi in your prayers this week, as the country faces a number of serious challenges. Ongoing fuel shortages are driving up prices and making life even more difficult for families already enduring the impact of rocketing inflation. There is concern around Ebola which is spreading in nearby countries. Political tensions remain high ahead of next year's elections. Pray for peace, stability and relief for those struggling with poverty and insecurity. Please pray for Cord's country team and Burundian partner organisations, that they would know God's strength and blessing as they continue their work in these difficult circumstances.

14 – 20 February

Let us celebrate the work of PLURAL in Laos, bringing together community, minority faith groups and government officials to promote understanding, tolerance and peace. Pray for the relationships that have been built with the Government, and that openness and collaboration will continue to grow. At present, this project is only being delivered in certain regions. Please pray that this work will eventually spread to the whole country, so that all faith communities in Laos will have the chance to experience peace and freedom.

Cord is a member of The Community of the Cross of Nails. This worldwide network of over 200 churches, charities, peacebuilding centres, and educational and training organisations, is inspired by the Coventry story of destruction, rebuilding and renewal and all members are active in reconciliation in their own ways.

As a result, each Monday, as part of our staff prayers, we share in The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation and we'd love you to join with us whenever you can:

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

FATHER FORGIVE

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

FATHER FORGIVE

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

FATHER FORGIVE

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

FATHER FORGIVE

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

FATHER FORGIVE

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

FATHER FORGIVE

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

FATHER FORGIVE

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The Knife Angel standing outside Coventry Cathedral. The monument is made of over 100,000 seized blades. It highlights the negative effects of violent behaviour and enforces the need for social change.

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