



## **Concordis International Prayer Update: January 2007**

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Concordis prayer update of 2007. In this month's edition:

- **Darfur:** *Concordis actively seeks to address the conflict's root causes*
- **Sudan:** *Consultation on federalism in Sudan scheduled for this month*
- **Accord Series:** *Sudan issue co-edited by Concordis is launched next week*
- **DRC:** *Concordis seeks to contribute to the goal of establishing durable peace*
- **Staff Update:** *Chris Wake joins Concordis as Operations Co-ordinator*

### **Darfur**

Following the marked deterioration in Darfur during 2006, the need for an effective resolution of the conflict is more pressing than ever. While the reported agreement by the government of Sudan to a joint UN-AU force is a positive development, it is no panacea to ending the violence. An effective peacekeeping force is certainly necessary to bring stability and protect innocent civilians, but the implementation of a peace agreement that genuinely addresses the conflict's root causes is equally vital for long-term peace.

Continuing to grapple with the underlying origins of the Darfur conflict is therefore high on the Concordis agenda for 2007. To this end we are planning to do all that we can to make a real contribution to halting the ongoing violence, particularly by engaging those who have rejected the Darfur Peace Agreement and working on the issues that have caused them to continue fighting. We also plan a consultation focusing on the long-term environmental causes and consequences of the conflict, in order to inform policy-makers about how the local environment could contribute to peace rather than war.

As ever, this planned work is dependent on receiving sufficient funds over the coming months. If the support is forthcoming, we plan to hold these important meetings in the first half of 2007.

## **Sudan**

Our long-awaited consultation on inter-governmental relationships is now scheduled to take place in Khartoum at the end of the month. The objective of this meeting is to address a fundamental cause of many of Sudan's conflicts – including that in Darfur – namely, the clashes between states, regions and the central government caused by power imbalance and ambiguity about control of resources.

The consultation will enable key Sudanese to develop policy proposals for better relationships both between different levels of government and across state and national boundaries. Held in partnership with the Sudanese National Council for Strategic Planning, it is designed to make a valuable contribution to their new five-year plan.

Another Sudan-wide consultation planned for March will focus on post-conflict justice and reconciliation across the country. If peace is to take root in the South and East of the country – and in Darfur in the future – it must be accompanied by an effective mix of initiatives which promote justice and reconciliation. Our aim in this consultation is for the Sudanese, with the help of international expertise, to agree Sudanese solutions to issues of dealing with the past. Preparations for this meeting will begin this month and further details will follow in due course.

## **Accord Series**

We have been co-operating during most of 2006 with Conciliation Resources on the Sudan issue of their respected Accord series. The publication, co-edited by Mark Simmons and Peter Dixon, is now at the printers and will be launched in the last two weeks of January in Khartoum, Juba and London. It will be available for download from 9 January at <http://www.c-r.org/our-work/accord/sudan/index.php>.

## **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

The situation in the DRC has improved but remains fragile following the election of Joseph Kabila as president in November 2006. If long-term peace is to become established, it is paramount that the new government makes wise decisions over the coming few years; particularly in terms of socio-economic development, governance and national reconciliation. We are keen to begin a series of consultations during 2007 with key Congolese on issues regarding employment, natural resources, the rule of law, transparency, justice and reconciliation. We continue to apply for funds to secure the £20,000 needed for the first consultation in this series.

## **Chris Wake**

Chris joined Concordis in December as Operations Co-ordinator, following the completion of his internship in South Africa. Chris has useful knowledge and experience in the field of peace-building and transitional justice, and is

proving to be a great asset to the Concordis team. We are looking forward to seeing our work progress from strength to strength now that we are back to something closer to full operational capacity.

### **Points for Prayer**

- Please continue to pray for the people of Darfur, and for an alleviation to their suffering in 2007. In particular, please pray for a comprehensive resolution of the ongoing conflict, and for Concordis to make an effective contribution to that end if it is the Lord's will.
- Give thanks that the federalism and justice/reconciliation consultations are both scheduled to take place over the next few months. Please pray that full funding would become available, that the preparations would go smoothly, and that the meetings would make a constructive contribution to the future peace and stability of Sudan.
- Give thanks that the Sudan edition of the Accord series has finally been completed. Please pray that the issue would be a valuable resource for those working in the field and that it would increase the profile of Concordis in appropriate and valuable ways.
- Please continue to pray that sufficient funding would be procured to allow us to begin the series of consultations in the DRC.
- Give thanks for the arrival of Chris Wake in the Concordis team. Please pray that he would settle in quickly, and that he would be able to carry out his roles and responsibilities to the best of his abilities.

### **Everyclick**

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If you would like to support our work financially then please click [here](#). Thank you.