"QUEST FOR PEACE FROM WITHIN AND FROM WITHOUT"

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How nice it is when you go to other country without fearing that someone will harm you? Or walk confidently in a Muslim or Christian community? Maybe travel in a place which were new to you and have a peace of mind to go to sleep without doubts that you can still wake up for the next morning. These were some of the few things which we wished for if we just have peace in our place and in the world. How fruitful and meaningful our lives would be. Many Presidents in the Philippines or in the world were aiming to have world peace yet we ended up still wishing. In fact World peace became popular for the general answers in many beauty pageant competitions. Why we think it was known that way? Maybe because world peace is one of the most important things that were missing in our society.

Peace is the term of which most desired condition by many human beings on planet earth and is very elusive in spite of relentless efforts by the individuals and organizations. Similarly, the word "love" is very popular topic of conversation associated to peace yet seldom experienced in its true sense. We can ask ourselves: "What is really Peace? " Our concept and understanding is the root cause why the focus is far from reality and fulfillment.

We cannot legislate or create a law to make and observe peace because it is not something tangible which can be massed-produced, and prescribe for general usage. The peace that mankind is pursuing is not the one that is conceived properly in human perception or was like going after the wind.

Peace cannot be obtained in a place where people are not the possessors of inner peace from within. The peace from within is in the heart and mind of a person who is aware of the need to live for others, the altruistic attitude coupled with spirit of the "Golden Rule" which are the formidable forces and irresistible toward spreading goodwill among men. My point is that , to achieve global peace, the approach should be cellular, that is, from every individual who possess peace in its true sense. We cannot give what we do not have, and the key to spreading peace among men is to have peace within us., in our hearts and minds and inspire others to be a peace evangelist.

But the question is how are we going to start? Well in my point of view, achieving peace is very difficult, yet we have to possess the spirit of having a change and being optimistic. Since having peace entails courage to talk and the perseverance to work out for the common good.

Let us visualize the situation, particularly here in Mindanao. If only there are 1,000 "Hadjis" in its true sense and 1,000 Christian missionaries to spread peace in Mindanao, the ripples of peace will overwhelm the human beings and undeniably a person who has peace is the one who lived justly. This individual is very contagious in their good deeds, speech and attitude. There was once a Christian friend said: "Do not let evil defeat you, instead conquer evil with

goodness". Yes the quest for world peace begins in the heart and mind of people who already possess it and applied to their lifestyle.

This quest for peace should start from within then working it out to influence others like the family, then, the community because achieving for peace is not just what we define but what we live for…