

## **World of Peace**

Norsia U. Abdulhaman  
School of Allied Medicine  
Universidad de Zamboanga  
Zamboanga city, Philippines

*“Let there be peace and let it begin in me”*. Each one can become an expanding expression of compassion by broadening our inner circle, those who matter. I suggest the simple step of broadening your definition of 'lovable other' to include animals. This simple, profound leap of consciousness would immediately invite all humanity (a subset of all animals) into your active life. Understanding compassion to be avoiding killing becomes a guiding light up the way toward peace and therefore, PEACE.

Ultimately, we must face the question: "Why are these people shooting at us?" Why? How hopeless has a life become when blowing you up is a godly idea? How bad does existence for some have to be before others will notice that the situation is dire enough to be worth alleviating? What role does you as a person play in unraveling the issue of why they explode and what do they want? Many people have made great changes, yet we still straddle the abyss of armed conflict. What more must we do? What magic key is missing to illuminate the age of peace, a time when no one will accept violence in any form?

I exhort you to let there be peace and let it begin in you. Then actively build bridges in your mind between you and those you would currently accept killing as collateral damage in an armed conflict. If you make their death unacceptable, we'll move closer to peace. For too long the image of the conquest of others, has been the dominant theme and fuels world domination and conflict. Other countries are not resources to be developed. They consist of people, animals and environment with the same needs: safety, shelter, health and love. The magnitude of the needed change seems so great that it threatens to envelop us all. But that is illusion. Seek not to change in others that which you would not change yourself.

This is my message to all people in this season: Let there be peace! Peace will come and be maintained only through the triumph of the principles of peace, and by the consequent subjection of the enemies of peace, which are hatred, envy, ill-gotten gain, the exercise of unrighteous dominion of men. Yielding to these evils brings misery to the individual, unhappiness to the home, war among nations.