

PEACE BEACONS FOR A CHANCE IN AFRICA

We live in a tumultuous time when events of the present have given us a cause to ponder deeply on our future. It has succeeded in inducing within us fear and anxiety of what lies tomorrow. At every continent, country, race, tribe, religion and group, the drums of crises, violence, injustice, and war keep beating for urgent attention. Through the media, we hear and see glimpses of human acts that have suddenly evolved into a greater form of slavery and tragedy for the entire human race.

According to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) report, "every minute, two people are killed in conflicts around the world. Often time very little is known about the people who are fighting and dying." However, in Africa, there have been over 9 million refugees and internally displaced people from conflicts. Apart from that, hundreds and thousands of people have been slaughtered from a number of conflicts and civil wars. The recent democratic revolution in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Ivory Coast has led in the deaths of thousands of Africans and displaced millions of them.

Breaking news from the media makes us to understand that *peace beacons for a chance* around world. It cries for a place in Africa- a continent ravaged by incessant crises, poverty, corruption and human right abuse. Peace is pleading for embracement in the Middle East where clash of interests has led to the destruction of lives and property. It is patiently seeking for attention in America whose economic recession has brought more pains and agony to the millions of people who live on the American dream. Peace prays for a way in the minds of people living in Europe, Asia and other continents whose peculiar problems have continued to pose a challenge to them. In our religious institutions, it begs for a seat. In most marriages and families, it is desperately in need of an invitation. In fact, it desires to live in the hearts of every human being if it can be given an opportunity.

Peace smiles when we make a big difference in the lives of others. When we teach people the essence of living in peace and becoming a peace maker, it jumps up with full excitement and joy. Peace laughs when we place the common good of others above our personal interest. When we stand up and say *no* to corruption, injustice, poverty, inequality, nepotism, bigotry and dominance, it feels at home. It lives in us when we see the beauty in others regardless of who they are and what they do.

It is important we give peace a chance in our heart for when we give in to it, it brightens our lives. Through us, we become instruments of change to others. *This is the only way we can create a peaceful Africa!*