



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CAMEROON

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Theme: **Shaping Peace Together**

Liturgy

1. Introit Psalm
2. Salutation
3. Invitation
4. Sermon
5. Intercessory prayers for peace
6. Dance! Dance! Dance!
7. Announcements
8. Benediction

MEDITATION ON THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE AT THE MOLYKO STADIUM, BUEA, SOUTH WEST REGION, CAMEROON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Psalm 34:14

***14 Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.***

SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT!

Dearly beloved in Christ, Dear lovers of Peace, today we are celebrating the international day of peace under the theme "Shaping Peace Together but I would like us to meditate on theme "Seek Peace and Pursue It"

We live in moments of great evil in our society. Both the strong and the weak are caught up in this great evil. The smoke of destruction has filled the atmosphere. The pain of agony has overwhelmed us. The cry of helplessness is getting louder and louder every day.

Corpses are piling, the wounded are increasing. Orphans and widows are searching for their parents and husbands. Our young girls, some below 15 years have become prostitutes to make ends meet. While our young men have been radicalized against their own people.

No one is free anymore; even they who carry guns live in the fear of the unknown. Those who kill are tormented by the blood of their

victims. Those in the bushes are not safe because wild animals or their pursuers can strike at any time.

Our society is ruled now by evil, and when evil rules, peace flies away like a piece of paper in a storm. When justice rules, peace settles in the hearts and minds of all men and women.

Is it not time enough for us to turn away from evil, do good and pursue peace?

David the celebrated Psalm writer lived at a time when evil had overwhelmed his society.

Righteousness and divine justice were driven away from the society due to the wrongs of his people. His society had turned chaotic and the people needed peace.

David told the people that the only way was for the people to

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Dear Friends in the Lord, evil has overwhelmed our society and our society has become chaotic. When we look at the happenings in our country, in our region, in our villages, in our quarters and in our homes; everything is getting chaotic. Shooting and killing of both the young and the old, become fun because it is the order of the day.

Kidnappings and demands for ransoms, raids and extortion of money from the helpless civilians have become the easiest and quick ways

to make money by those doing these atrocious things. Disappearances of young men and the stench of decaying human corpses have filled the atmosphere. Looting and burning of houses have become the game of those doing these things.

Raping and sexual abuse have become a regular pattern of activities in our neighbourhoods by the perpetrators of these inhuman crimes against humanity. We cannot keep silent but cry out in a loud voice that the Lord may hear us, for the psalmist says,

"The righteous cry out and the Lord hears; he delivers them from all their troubles." Yes, let the righteous cry out for justice and peace!

How can we imagine that the barrel of the gun will solve our problems? I do not believe that in this country, we have problems that are above us to resolve peacefully. I do not believe that problems in a family can be resolved by the use of guns and machetes!

I do not believe that we have exhausted all the peaceful means to resolve our problems because peaceful means are inexhaustible in resolving family problems.

I believe that family problems are resolved while sitting round the calabash of wine and cola nuts. And if the first attempt is not

successful; a second, third and more attempts are made still sitting round the calabash of wine and cola nuts until the problem is resolved.

How I wished we could go back to those good old days when the Peace analyst Eric Elléna in 2003 concluded that Cameroon was the "island of peace"; in the continent of Africa and the most peaceful in sub Saharan Africa!

Dear peace lovers, however we are ranked today the blame is on all of us. We can not blame it on anyone but on all of us Cameroonians. We all have a fare share of the problems we are going through. We have all contributed to take our nation to whatever position we may have today.

With all what we are going through, we have lost our position as the 'island of peace.'" I challenge all of us to work for peace from this day forward and regain that prestigious position of peace in sub-Saharan Africa.

The wisdom of our people says that rats of the same household do not fight using their teeth, but using their tails in order not to harm each other. We are meant to resolve problems in peace and justice, rather than allow our problems to dissolve and destroy us when we use the barrel of the gun.

Thus, David said; only when humankind fears the Lord, and only when humankind stops speaking and thinking evil; then will our world be transformed and become a better place to live in.

The great Greek iconic thinker, Plato was a pursuer of justice. In his dialogue, titled "The Republic", the main question is, "What is Justice?" His panelists mistakenly defined Justice to mean, "The interest of the stronger party" and "Rewarding ones' friends and punishing one's enemies."

Dear friends in the Lord, we are perishing because we have mistakenly taken justice to mean the interest of the stronger party and using power to subdue others. When justice becomes the good interest of all, our society will flourish and peace will reign supreme.

When justice becomes the equitable distribution of the wealth of the nation and equal opportunities to all, we will not talk of relative peace but absolute peace. When justice becomes the fear and respect of all human beings and the sacredness of human life; suppression, oppressing, extortion, secret and open executions and extrajudicial killings will have no place in our society. A pursuer of Justice is a pursuer of Peace.

The message from Psalm 34: 14 is urging us to: slow down, take a deep breath, open yourself to the presence of God, and He will

reward you with the peace you seek. Go further, and strive for peace in all your interactions with fellow human beings in your neighbourhood, in your country, and in the world; and your peace will be multiplied, as you are fulfilling the wishes of Jesus Christ, who declared, "***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons (and daughters) of God.***" In like manner, it can also be said of some of us that "***Cursed are warmongers, for they shall be called sons and daughters of the devil.***"

Dear sons and daughters of the Most High God, even though the forces of darkness are at work, the sons and daughters of Light must keep shining in their thoughts, words and actions. Darkness can never ever overcome light because light is always victorious when it shines.

Martin Luther King Jr., in the dark days of the American Civil Rights struggles, had this to say:

When evil men plot, good men must plan. When evil men burn and bomb, good men must build and bind. When evil men shout ugly words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love. Where evil men would seek to perpetuate an unjust status quo, good men must seek to bring into being a real order of justice and peace.

Jesus Christ our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace challenges us with these beautiful words: ***"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek too. And if someone takes you to court to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. And if anyone asks you to carry his bag one mile, carry it two miles. When someone asks you for something, give it to him; when someone wants to borrow something, lend it to him (Matthew 5:38-42 GNB).***

These are not words of cowardice, but words that carry extraordinary strength because Jesus Christ was never a coward! These are words of self-surrender for the sake of peace, restoration and the salvation of humanity. Yes, the Prince of Peace gave up himself to sinful, evil and wicked men, not because He was weak, but because he wanted a new beginning that we may have everlasting life and peace in Him. No doubts He said;

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid John 14:27NIV).

A poor man lived with his wife and six children in a very small one-room house. They were always getting in each other's way and there was so little space they could hardly breathe! Finally, the man could not stand it any longer. He talked to his wife and asked her what to do. "*Go see the rabbi,*" she told him, and after arguing a while, he went. And so the poor man told the rabbi how miserable things were at home with him, his wife, and the six children all eating and living and sleeping in one room.

The poor man told the rabbi, "*We're even starting to yell and fight with each other. Life couldn't be worse.*" The rabbi thought very deeply about the poor man's problem. Then he said, "*Do you promise to do exactly what I tell you? Know that if you do, things will get better. Do you promise?*"

"*I promise,*" the poor man said. The rabbi then asked the poor man a strange question. "*Do you own any animals?*" "Yes," he said. "*I have one cow, one goat, and some fowls.*" "Good," the rabbi said. "*When you get home, take all the animals into your house to live with you.*" The poor man was astonished to hear this advice from the rabbi, but he had promised to do exactly what the rabbi said. So, he went home and took all the farm animals into the tiny one-room house. The next day the poor man ran back to see the rabbi. "*What*

have you done to me, Rabbi?" he cried. "It's awful. I did what you told me and the animals are all over the house! Rabbi, help me!" The rabbi listened and said calmly, "Now go home and take the fowls back outside." The poor man did as the rabbi said, but hurried back again the next day. "The fowls are gone, but Rabbi, the goat is smashing up all the furniture and eating everything in sight!"

The good rabbi said, *"Go home and remove the goat and may God bless you."* So, the poor man went home and took the goat outside. But he ran back again to see the rabbi, crying and wailing. *"What a nightmare you have brought to my house, Rabbi! With the cow it's like living in a stable! Can human beings live with an animal like this?"* The rabbi said sweetly, *"My friend, you are right. May God bless you. Go home now and take the cow out of your house."* And the poor man went quickly home and took the cow out of the house. The next day he came running back to the rabbi again. *"O Rabbi,"* he said with a big smile on his face, *"we have such a good life now. The animals are all out of the house. The house is so quiet and we've got room to spare! What a joy!"*

Dear lovers of peace, it is not what we go through that matters. But how we go through what we are going through. It is not what we see, but the way we see it. When we change the way we look at

things, the things we look at will change. We are in these crises because we are not seeing the things the way we should see them. We have reached a stage where we do not think straight and we do not think straight. The greed of this senseless war has made many not to see the miseries of thousands of our people what they see is the gains they are making out of this crisis. That is why many are kidnaped everyday not for the sake of the struggle but for the sake of the ransom. Let us change the way we look at things and the things we are looking at will change. If you have made more enemies than friends in these crisis moment, start change the way you are looking at them. Try to see a glimpse of God's image in them. And you will be able to treat them with love and peace will settle in our lives and nation.

The celebrated American President—*Ronald Reagan* once said; "Peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means." Let us leave this place with the determination to handle the present crisis using peaceful means. Let us seek and pursue peace in our troubled land so that we may live our short stay on earth peacefully before our journeys and travelling days in this fallen world are done! Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2020

Prayer No.1 God our heavenly Father, you are Peace. You created us in your image and likeness. You came to us in the person of Jesus Christ the Prince of peace.

We pray you, help us to be agents and instruments of peace in our fallen society and country. Grant us the grace to relate with one another in peace. In doing this, we will reflect the true image of peace, who you are.

Help us to forgive one another, and bear with one another so that peace may return to our land.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Rev. Achah Gerald

Prayer No. 2 God of all mercies, the hour has come when your own servants are seeking your face. We are gathered here under your own canopy to pray for ourselves and our nation. We are gathered here to call upon your name so that you can give us your peace. We your children are in deep agony, your children are in deep pains. Children, fathers and mothers are crying because of the challenges they are going through. Many do not have homes, many do not have food to eat. Where can we go? To whom shall we cry except to you?

Father of all grace, we humbly submit and surrender all to you. Manifest your glory so that the world can believe that you are our God. Oh Lord, grant us grace and peace.

Rev. Abawah Emmanuel N.

Prayer No. 3 Jehovah Shalom – The Lord of peace, Lord in the gospel of Luke 19:14 you wept over the city of Jerusalem because of the sin, wickedness and lack of peace and said, *“If you, even you, had only known on this day what will bring you peace.”*

Today we weep over the North West, South West and Far North regions of Cameroon which have been plagued by various turmoil.

Before you ascended to heaven you told the disciples in John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.”*

We cannot enjoy this peace today because of the crisis that prevail in our regions. We live in fear of the unknown. People preach peace but deny to practice justice.

There is hatred, injustice, lack of love, killings, sabotage, fraud, anarchy, hypocrisy and spilling of blood. People have stained their hands with blood. This has caused untold hardship and trauma. Lord, there is no problem you cannot intervene. We look up to you for an urgent solution to this crisis.

Many Chiefs and Fons have escaped from their palaces, children denied education, teachers have lost their jobs, and women now give birth to children in the forests and some die in child birth.

Oh Lord, your children have been killed, maimed, houses have been burnt and property lost. Many people have been kidnapped and tortured. You children now live under constant threats with many in the prisons.

Now we are homeless in our own homeland, we have been tagged labels like IDPs and refugees. There is hunger and frustration; people are hurting in their body and spirits causing stress and trauma. So many people have lost their jobs, there is economic lost, families are separated and there is hate speech everywhere.

You have said in your word in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that, *“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

Father, forgive our sins and heal our land. Let peace return for you are Jehovah Shalom – The Lord our peace. We pray Oh Lord that you will come to our rescue. In the name of Jesus, we have prayed.

Rev. Tah Christopher Fobang

Prayer No. 4 God our heavenly father, you are the one who judges the nations and settle their disputes. You have commanded us to beat our swords into plows and spears into pruning hooks. Your will Oh Lord is that nations will no longer train for war or take up swords against each other.

Why have nations reversed your will oh Lord? Why have we rather taken the path of violence to our own destruction?

We pray O God to forgive us. Father forgive and show mercy on us. O God hear our prayer and petitions. For your sake and holy name, look on us with your favour.

Give ear and hear us. Open your eyes and see the desolation of our towns and villages and cities. Listen Lord because of your great love. Lord listen and forgive. Father, son, Holy Spirit do not delay. Yes, blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of god.

Rev. Foncham Ezekiel

Prayer No. 5 Oh God our heavenly Father, the one who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. Oh God you loved your creation so much but sin came and separated it from you thus causing war within and without.

This day Lord we cry out to you for forgiveness and restoration. For us oh Lord; for the bloodshed, injustice, greed, selfishness, hatred, theft. Cleanse our lives and land. Prince of peace, give us your peace. Heal our lives and our land. Heal the world lord. In Jesus' name. Amen

Rev. Mrs. Achale Patricia

Prayer No. 6 Oh our God, creator of all that is in and without your creation. We give you thanks for your work of creation. As creator we call on you for peace in our land.

From west to East, North to south let your peace be experienced in all corners of our country Cameroon.

Without your word, we will not have the peace needed in your church and the world. We have come as a family called by your name. Let our supplications for peace remain in our land. We thank God for your son Jesus the author of peace. Let peace be in Christ we pray. Amen

Rev. Ngalle Simon

Prayer No.7 Lord you are merciful and kind, forgive us all our wrongdoings. Our faith and hope in you will never be shaken, no matter what the devil is doing. We will remain

focused. Our daily challenges and afflictions may seem hopeless, but our hope is in you giver of peace.

Father, we thank you for the life of some of us who are still alive today in the midst of war and sickness. We appreciate you for your work of mercy and grace that has been at work in our lives and nation thus far. We thank you Lord for the goals and for expectations met already.

Father we cry to you on this special day, reminding you that so much sorrow and misery has been attached to our testimonies due to the ongoing crisis in the North west and South west regions of this Cameroon.

O God, we command whatever and whoever is planting sorrow, misery, failure for our situation to dry up now in the name of Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus we pull down strongholds of regulating powers working against peace in this nation. Let all the activities of the profane and wicked prince and princes of darkness in our land come to an end in Jesus' name.

Lord by your grace, come and salvage us from this pain, affliction, suffering, confusion in our lives, in the lives of innocent families.

Lord deliver us from the hands of the evil conspirers of this nation. Father set confusion in their midst and scatter their conspiracies and bring us peace.

Lord our hearts are weary and troubled about the many evils fast processing. Lord we need your strength to move on. Grant us peace to every weary heart, comfort families being tortured by what is going on, put Satan to shame and grant us peace.

Rev. Sobe Florence Ebango

Prayer No. 8 Father in heaven, father almighty, the God of peace, justice and the controller of everything in the universe. We acknowledge the fact that you are the only one in charge regardless of who is governing. In your word we are told that that you rule over everything.

We pray you for wisdom among the leaders of our beloved country. Guide them to make the right decisions concerning the situation we are facing for we know that making wrong decisions can lead to further chaos. Give them wisdom to seek your counsel first before all others for that is what your word instructs us to do.

Merciful God, we know in a crisis situation like ours, some people seem to have their own agendas that continue to divide. We beseech you, help all your people to have only one agenda which is to unify, so that our nation can be restored to normalcy and so that we can experience lasting peace.

Lord God of host, we continue to cry for mercy, bringing all our faults and shortcomings to your throne of grace. Forgive us and heal our land. Give us your peace which transcends all understanding to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen

Rev. Ebongole Mejang

PCC CELEBRATES 2020 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Christians of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) have been urged to seek peace and to pursue Peace. The call was made by the Moderator of the PCC, Rt. Rev Fonki Samuel Forba on Sunday September 20th 2020. The Moderator was addressing Christians at the Molyko Omnisport Stadium Buea, during the 2020 International Day of Peace.

Preaching during the Solemn ceremony, the Moderator of the PCC, Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel Forba captioned his Sermon **“Seek Peace and Pursue It”** drawn from Psalm 34: 14.

The day was characterized with a peace walk by Christians of the various congregations in the Fako North Presbytery who marched with Peace plants echoing the need for an urgent return of Peace in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon.

The event was attended by the Synod Clerk of the PCC the Rev. Miki Hans Abia and a cream of Pastors in the Presbytery including, the Presbyterian Secretary for Fako North Presbytery, the Reverend Foncham Ezekiel.

Highlight of the day’s event were series of intercessory prayers by the various Pastors who used the forum to plead for God to restore peace in Cameroon.

Activities marking the 2020 International Day of Peace were launched by the PCC National Peace Coordinator the Rev. Nta William Nche on the 13th of September 2020 at PC Beach Limbe in Fako South Presbytery.

As part of activities, the PCC National Peace Office launched the Second Edition of the Peace Summit Magazine, which is a product of the Peace Journalism and Conflict Transformation Project sponsored by the PCC and Bread for the World.

Christians came out in their numbers holding peace plants indicating their desire for peace to return to Cameroon.



Christians of the Fako South Presbytery (Limbe) marching during the launching of the International Day of Peace 2020

There was equally the lighting of the Peace Candle preceded by a joint prayer session led by the Christian Women Fellowship (CWF) movement.

In addition to activities marking this year's international day of Peace, the PCC Peace Office organized the Second Edition of the Peace Award on Friday 18th of September 2020 as the Synod Office Hall in Buea. His Eminence Christian Cardinal Tumi, Njomo epe Omam Esther and Atigi Samuel were laurates for the Male, Female and Youth categories respectively.



Lighting of the Peace candle at PC Down Beach Limbe

Peace activities were also carried out in Kumba Presbytery preceded at by the Presbyterian Secretary for the Kumba Presbytery Rev Marry Wose.



Celebration of the International day for peace in Kumba Presbytery

International Day of Peace in Ndian Presbytery



Celebration of the International day for Peace in Ndian Presbytery

The Bafut Presbytery was not left out in the celebration and other presbytery.



Celebration of the International day of Peace in Bafut Presbytery

International Day of Peace in Fako South Presbytery



Celebration of the International day for peace in Fako South Presbytery

Over to the East Mungo North Presbytery in the center region there was a prayer session at PC Ekounou in Yaounde.

The vision of the Moderator who is the pioneer laurate of the PCC Peace Award to champion the course of peace, created the Peace Office, with Rev Nta William Nche as its National Coordinator.

The Peace office has made great strides and has now extended its branches to the other eight regions of the country. It is expected that the national coordinator and his team will continue to broker peace in the restive north West and South West regions and in

all of Cameroon. The peace office has stood out in the quest for peace considering the fact that they have carried along women in the church through training in Conflict transformation. Thanks to the special attachment of PCC to peace work that the church created a national office for Peace.

As a way of conserving Peace, the moderator of the PCC looks forward to organizing a mega Peace Workshop to empower religious leaders in Cameroon so that they can continue to champion holistic peace in the nation. In the days ahead, there would be a peace caravan to preach peace in other regions of the country.

The full celebration can be followed on Facebook via the following link:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3924929837524435&id=100000223711954&sfnsn=mo&extid=GYzmQGDhJwpJpZ6N

Yours for the sake of the Faith

