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The Role of the Church in Ensuring Peace and Harmony in Haiti

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The Role of the Church in Ensuring Peace and Harmony in Haiti

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Abstract

The main and essential teaching of all churches worldwide is to promote love, compassion, tolerance, tranquility, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. World peace and harmony are phenomena that everybody wants to enjoy without limits. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. Lack of peace and harmony causes human suffering through fatalities, the devastation of resources, regular displacements and insecurity. Thus, the study sought to examine the church's role in ensuring peace and harmony in Haiti. The study was literature-based and its findings were based on the findings from the preceding studies. The study discovered that the contemporary church is teaching the love of God to individuals of different descents and ensures that this is evident among the believers since whatever the church preached will influence society either positively or negatively. The churches play a critical role in ensuring the peace is maintained. The study concluded that Christian leaders live by what they teach or preach to alter other people's behavior. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. The study recommended that churches need not only preach love and forgiveness but are also required to show true love to everyone regardless of religious affiliation. They are required to be actively involved in solving disagreements through mediation and arbitration. Christians are actively involved in solving conflicts throughout the World. Christian or church leaders need to play priestly duties to end spiritual differences. These duties include: preparing intercessory prayers for the nation, teaching messages of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation and informing the people on the sound doctrines of the Christian faith. The study also suggests that Christianity as a religion of peace is required to promote peaceful coexistence in the land with the influence of Christian leaders.

Keywords: *Peace, harmony, church, Haiti*

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1.0 Background of the study

Peace is a universal phenomenon everybody wishes and desires to enjoy every time (Xolbekova & Tajibayev, 2021). Traditions, cultures, faiths and societies have various prescriptions for achieving and enjoying peace. Whenever and anywhere, there is peace, there tends to be development and longevity is enjoyed. Christianity is among the predominant religions worldwide, which preaches peace and motivates all adherents to the faith to practice peace and live in harmony with each other (Verma, 2021). Banban (2018) reported that peace and harmony are worldwide phenomena that everybody wants and longs to enjoy without limits. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. The teaching of Christianity guided by the bible (word of God) has repeatedly encouraged the participants to make sure that they live in peace and harmony in society. Church leaders have always openly stood for societal peace and harmony and against physical violence (Cherian, 2019). Several of the peacebuilding functions the Church has played consist of: promoting tranquility arrangements, providing risk-free areas for discussion in between contending parties, outreach to rebel individuals and direct work with the victims of war. The main and essential teaching of all churches worldwide is to promote love, compassion, tolerance, tranquility, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. World peace and harmony are phenomena that everybody wants to enjoy without limits. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. Lack of peace and harmony causes human suffering through fatalities, the devastation of resources, regular displacements and insecurity.

Peace prevails where everybody has fair and equal accessibility to justice and an environment to live in security (Lima & Gomez, 2019). Peace sustains only in an area where everybody can engage in modelling their destiny and decision makers are accountable to the people. Peace is a state of order, freedom from fear and want, of being security. Public affirmations by church leaders and Christian organizations committed to bringing peace have frequently made declarations to support peace (McCarthy & Farrelly, 2020). Jesus Christ, the Prince of Tranquility (Isaiah 9:6) highlighted in His teachings that the peace that he came to bring is that which goes beyond all human understanding. Tranquility and harmony appear complementary. Zamor (2020) noted that religious leaders have constantly and openly stood for societal peace and harmony against violence. It is now broadly noted that violent disputes are the main barrier to development. Lack of peace and harmony causes human sufferings through fatalities, the devastation of resources, regular displacements and insecurity (Hasan, 2019). A violent dispute interferes with the production process, develops conditions for the pillage of the nation's resources and diverts their application from development purposes to servicing war. The violent dispute is thus responsible for continuing suffering and low development in a region, country, and the World (Knowles, 2018).

Religion is an important ingredient of social norms and values, highly drawn in personal and social conceptions of peace (Haynes, 2021). This is because it addresses some of human life's most philosophical existential concerns, like liberty or inevitability, fear and security, right or wrong, and consecrated or profane. These show the potential role of religious beliefs as a power of peace-making and reconciliation. Religious beliefs have been a component of human experience, for good or worse. Religious beliefs emerged in different forms at various times to remove hatred and promote love and peace and inform residents to live a worthwhile life (Mehfooz, 2021). From the

past human civilization, religion played a very substantial role in shaping society. Over time, the World has witnessed how religion's emphasis shifted from peacebuilding to the destruction of peace. Even though the function of religion in conflict and peacebuilding has mainly been depicted in binary terms: either as a source of violence or of reconciliation, it is rather complicated to specify the role of religion as there may have a wide variety of other variables that may have relevance for a certain dispute (Soriano, 2018).

The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. The current peace builders educate individuals on the lesson of social justice but neglect to execute it unbiasedly (Labobar, 2020). This double standard and dual policy of international peacebuilders for all and miscellaneous and their different perspective are reasons for havoc, revolt, chaos, terrorism and extremism. Islam eliminated the barriers of disgust and hostility between various classes and groups of humanity, and all people were declared equal. In the dispensation of justice, Islam does not consider the high offices held by any individual. Christian leaders also live by what they teach or preach to alter other people's behaviour. They need not only to preach love and forgiveness; they are required to show true love to every resident of the land regardless of religious affiliation. They are required to be actively involved in solving disagreements through mediation and arbitration. Christ was actively involved in solving conflicts throughout his earthly ministry. Churches' mission in ensuring peace provides a way of life that extends beyond traditional concepts of churches' preaching and teaching on peace and reconciliation (Odak, 2021). As the conflicts and violence cases are being noted nowadays, many churches in various parts of the World are actively taking part in reconciliation missions in their local contexts as part of their faith and witness. Moreover, the churches' peacebuilding mission should be properly equipped for which systematic engagement of learning and training has to be formed (Mohamed-Saleem, 2020). The study also suggests that Christianity as a religion of peace is required to promote peaceful coexistence in the land with the influence of Christian leaders.

Religious leaders should be at the forefront of preaching the advantages of good relationships with one's neighbors. These refer to the relations between communities within a country and nearby countries. These will certainly lead to smooth-functioning governments and low levels of conflict. Religious peacemakers must be aware of the missionary work promoting good relations among the people. Churches need not only to preach love and forgiveness but are also required to show true love to everyone, regardless of religious affiliation. They are required to be actively involved in solving disagreements through mediation and arbitration. Christians are actively involved in solving conflicts throughout the World. Christian or church leaders need to play priestly duties to end spiritual differences (Haynes, 2021). Potential and prospective peacebuilding leaders must be identified and trained to implement the peacebuilding mission successfully. Although the concept of knowledge about peacebuilding is increasing, lack of clarity about what makes peacebuilding in the local context effective as part of churches' missions persists. Thus, the study sought to examine the Church's role in ensuring peace and harmony in Haiti. The study was literature-based and its findings were based on the findings from the preceding studies.

2.0 Literature Review

Xolbekova and Tajibayev (2021) noted that the main and essential teaching of all churches worldwide is to promote love, compassion, tolerance, tranquility, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. World peace and harmony are phenomena that everybody wants to enjoy without limits. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. Lack of peace and harmony causes human suffering through fatalities, the devastation of resources, regular displacements and insecurity. Thus, the study sought to examine the church's role in ensuring peace and harmony in Haiti. The study discovered that the contemporary church is teaching the love of God to individuals of different descents and ensures that this is evident among the believers since whatever the church preached will influence society either positively or negatively. The churches play a critical role in ensuring the peace is maintained. The study concluded that Christian leaders live by what they teach or preach to alter other people's behavior. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. The study recommended that churches need not only preach love and forgiveness but are also required to show true love to everyone regardless of religious affiliation.

Labobar (2020) conducted research to examine the function of the contemporary church in making sure that there is tranquillity and harmony in society utilizing three selected foursquare gospel churches Lombok Zone in Indonesia as a case study. The research was carried out to determine the factors that may interfere with tranquillity and harmony in society and what the contemporary church is expected to do in order to make sure there is peace and harmony in every place of our society. The study approach and data was gotten from textbooks, Journals and Articles, Encyclopedias, Bible, Dictionaries and internet. Furthermore, questionnaires were carried out and oral interviews were carried out. The researcher discovered that fragmentation, division and serious agitation are threatening the tranquillity and harmony in the society that need quick attention. The researcher concluded that the contemporary church is required to do even more in the area of supporting for peaceful coexistence amongst various social and ethnic groups emphasizing God's word on love, mercy, forgiveness and peace. According to these findings, the researcher suggested that the contemporary church is required to keep on teaching love of God to individuals and make sure that this is evident initially among the believers since whatever the church preached but do not do will certainly influence the society. The Scriptures points out that Jesus preached what he was doing. The church must be peaceful before it can preach tranquillity.

Schliesser, Kadayifci-Orellana and Kollontai (2020) argued that the World has become a global village where an incidence in one side of the World has resounding impacts in all other places around the World. Therefore, the need to establish a positive perspective towards understanding and interaction among all the world religious beliefs has enhanced manifold, especially in view of the grave nature of risks posed to worldwide order and peace. The study deals with the problems of spiritual bigotry, intolerance and misunderstanding towards different other religions. Religion does not preach violence and incongruity to its followers. All churches' main and essential teachings worldwide promote love, compassion, tolerance, tranquillity, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. In the past, many efforts have been made to develop harmony amongst the followers of various churches by eliminating their distinctions and unique identifications shaped by their corresponding churches through the imposition of a uniform

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religious framework. The study discusses that there is no need to get rid of church distinctions and identities to develop a good society, but it likewise stresses the need to create core respect and recognize the beliefs of others. This creates the basis on which followers of various religions can stay together. The followers of various churches and faiths must unite to initiate dialogue and communication to make this World a peaceful place for everybody, regardless of their religious beliefs, creed and ethnic identities. This is the only means to eliminate the specter of terrorism and extremism. The main and essential teaching of all churches worldwide is to promote love, compassion, tolerance, tranquility, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. World peace and harmony are phenomena that everybody wants to enjoy without limits. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. Lack of peace and harmony causes human suffering through fatalities, the devastation of resources, regular displacements and insecurity.

Jalal, Zaman and Ullah (2021) researched to explore Christian leaders' functions in promoting peace and harmony in Afghanistan. Sunni Islam is among the three main religions in Afghanistan; most of the followers of this religious belief are from southern Afghanistan, but also considerable numbers of Christians in some northern states. Because the early eighties there has been consistent spiritual violence in Afghanistan, particularly among the followers of the Muslim faith and Christian belief, which have declared the lives of many individuals without understanding how to overcome them. Different interfaith dialogues between Christians and Muslims have not produced a positive outcome. The study's researcher considers spiritual leaders to be in a better position to come up with a long-lasting solution to the problem by calling their believers to order. Therefore, the researcher of the study discusses the duties one of these significant religious leaders (Christian) may play in promoting peaceful coexistence in Afghanistan. The historical strategy was utilized for this study and suggested that Christian leaders should emulate Christ, who, despite the persecution He encountered, still begged his followers to leave in peace with each other.

Yusoff and Sarjoon (2019) researched different religious leaders, people and groups represented by churches. The study was guided by a combination of the Holton version, Montville and Burton theories. It is noted that the research will be useful to the field of philosophy and religious research studies, Sri Lanka at large in the process of tranquility building and reconciliation in regions is influenced by ethnic conflicts. In the research various factors were studied; Independent variables are tranquility building and reconciliation while dependent variables are the spiritual methods. The research utilized a combined study design. The primary data was consisted of properly filled questionnaires and interviews while the secondary data were in notes form. The sample size was that of 425 respondents gotten from the Roman Catholic Church, Pentecostal Assemblies of God and the Baptist Churches. Data was presented utilizing frequency distribution and percent tables, bar graphs and pie charts in association to the study topic. The research discovered that the primary causes of ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka consist of competition for resources, political instigations, security and acknowledgment and acceptance. The research's results showed that spiritual techniques like, problem addressing workshops, arbitrations and arrangements and confessions have been very efficient in tranquility building and reconciliation. Moreover, the research determined that the religious strategies are not used continually so as to promote peace and reconciliation. Spiritual leaders and institutions ought to consequently promote tranquility and reconciliation constantly and not wait ethnic dispute to emerge so as to be relevant.

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A study by Cárdenas and Olivius (2021) noted that the function of religion in conflict and peace building has primarily been illustrated in binary terms: either as a source of violence or of reconciliation. The Government of Myanmar is encountering major problems to deal with the conflicting needs and aspirations of the Rakhine Buddhist and the Muslim communities. The Government of Myanmar is attempting to show Rohingya community is entirely a violent extremist disregarding the historic truth that the Rohingya themselves are one of the most oppressed minority groups on the planet. The troubles encountered by Rohingya are implanted in years of authoritarian rule, violence and mistrust among various religious teams. Pre-empting deep-rooted violence can be removed by showing a trustworthy process which can demonstrate to the Buddhist and Muslim communities that political methods exist and multi-religious dialogue may facilitate calm coexistence. The research will use critical discussion evaluation and doctrinal evaluation on the existing literature, news reports and reports of the local bodies and worldwide institutions followed by a case study to examine how faith played a role for unrest and physical violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar and how multi-faith discussion and teamwork might contribute towards reconciliation process for peaceful coexistence of Rohingya and other spiritual and ethnic groups. The study is to be carried out making use of semi-structured interviews amongst individuals fleeing from violence and took settle in Bangladesh and individuals living in conflict area consisting of people from majority and minority spiritual and ethnic groups and us other relevant stakeholders. While recognizing prospective solutions or way outs for the Rakhine State, the research will likewise indicate how religion played either positive or adverse roles and lessons needed to be found out for long-term peace-building.

Adwan (2022) established that Spiritual groups have been at the forefront of peace-building. They have a vital role to play in encouraging reconciliation among the worshippers. This arises from the Scripture the religious leaders teach is holistic, incorporating both spiritual and social dimensions. The followers of various churches and faiths must unite to initiate dialogue and communication to make this World a peaceful place for everybody, regardless of their religious beliefs, creed and ethnic identities. All churches' main and essential teachings worldwide are to promote love, compassion, tolerance, tranquillity, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. World peace and harmony are phenomena that everybody wants to enjoy without limits. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. Lack of peace and harmony causes human suffering through fatalities, the devastation of resources, regular displacements and insecurity. The research recommended that Christian or church leaders need to play priestly duties to bring an end to spiritual differences. Religious leaders should be at the forefront of preaching the advantages of good relationships with one's neighbors. These refer to the relations between communities within a country and nearby countries. These will certainly lead to smooth-functioning governments and low levels of conflict. Religious peacemakers must be aware of the missionary work promoting good relations among the people. The study recommended that churches need not only preach love and forgiveness but are also required to show true love to everyone regardless of religious affiliation. They are required to be actively involved in solving disagreements through mediation and arbitration. Christians are actively involved in solving conflicts throughout the World. Christian or church leaders need to play priestly duties to end spiritual differences. These duties include: preparing intercessory prayers for the nation, teaching messages of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation and informing the people on

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the sound doctrines of the Christian faith. The study also suggests that Christianity as a religion of peace is required to promote peaceful coexistence in the land with the influence of Christian leaders.

Abdullah, Ahmad, Alabdullah, Chikhou and Mamo (2020) reported that the modern-day Syria society is popularly known for varied of crises generally among the main religious groups within the society. Such problems are usually managed either by religious sects or ethnic protestors who declared that the government has not been fair to them for whatever reasons. The current day Syria is convulsing in disorders and violent spiritual crises. Wars and violent fatalities are most day-to-day events in every nook and cranny of the country. There have been reported loss of lives and wanton destruction of properties. Schools and businesses are being obliterated; foreign investors no more see Syria as an area to invest peacefully. Socially, politically and morally, the country is in chaos. Hardly can one mention development when the systems stopped working to keep at the least a minimal degree of social decorum. The fact that Syrians can no more live together in tranquility is evident. Spiritual and political disputes have actually blinded us. Christians particularly are ending up being determined and angry, as there is no moderating of these problems, and as the stark fact is occurring to those that reside on the frontlines of the conflict that it is simply a matter of when and where the next religious conflict will certainly happen. They are required to be actively involved in solving disagreements through mediation and arbitration. Christians are actively involved in solving conflicts throughout the World. Christian or church leaders need to play priestly duties to end spiritual differences. These duties include: preparing intercessory prayers for the nation, teaching messages of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation and informing the people on the sound doctrines of the Christian faith. The study also suggests that Christianity as a religion of peace is required to promote peaceful coexistence in the land with the influence of Christian leaders.

Islam (2019) performed study to investigate the role of the church in mitigating intra-ethnic conflicts in Kalimantan, Indonesia. It seeks to determine the impact of church disputes' reconciliation on alleviating intra-ethnic conflict in Kalimantan, Indonesia; to evaluate the effect of church dialogue on alleviating intra-ethnic conflict in Kalimantan; to examine the role of the church leadership in alleviating intra-ethnic conflicts in Kalimantan; and to examine the role of the church in awareness creation on alleviating intra-ethnic conflicts. The research used a cross-section study design since it is generally effective in determining a section of the whole population within a restricted time. A sample size of 150 was chosen utilizing a simple random sampling. Interviews and questionnaires were used in gathering data. The psycho-cultural conflict concept and economic church concept formed the fundamental of the research because they integrated identity groups and individuals as the units of evaluation. Church leaders formed the sample size of the research. The research discovered that there was intra-ethnic conflict among the Kalimantan residents caused by political influence, boundary disputes, autochthony, identity, land ownership and territorial rights. The research showed that church was not fully included in the processes of peace building, reconciliation and mitigation of intra-ethnic conflicts in the Kalimantan region. Even though church participated in the provision of food and clothing to the individuals affected by intra-ethnic conflicts, it did not seem to have enough strategies for mitigation. The research suggests that the church ought to take up her role in addressing problems associated to intra-ethnic conflicts in the society and to develop the awareness of adverse effects of conflicts. The church

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should develop good and implementable approaches to mitigate intra-ethnic conflicts. The church leaders should be in the forefront of peace building and reconciliation that will help in bringing peace and harmony among the disagreeing parties of the society.

3.0 Research Findings

The study discovered that the contemporary church is teaching the love of God to individuals of different descents and ensures that this is evident among the believers since whatever the church preached will influence society either positively or negatively. Religious leaders and groups are at the lowest level in society, given spiritual groups' continued impact and place in many rural communities. Spiritual groups have been at the forefront of the process of peace-building. They have a vital role to play in encouraging reconciliation among the worshippers. This arises from the Scripture the religious leaders teach is holistic, incorporating both spiritual and social dimensions. The followers of various churches and faiths must unite to initiate dialogue and communication to make this world a peaceful place for everybody, regardless of their religious beliefs, creed and ethnic identities. The main and essential teaching of all churches worldwide is to promote love, compassion, tolerance, tranquillity, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. World peace and harmony are phenomena that everybody wants to enjoy without limits. The Christian customs have already noted fantastic success as it promotes peace in many areas. Lack of peace and harmony causes human suffering through fatalities, the devastation of resources, regular displacements and insecurity.

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4.0 Recommendations

The study recommended that Christian or church leaders need to play priestly duties to bring an end to spiritual differences. These duties include: preparing intercessory prayers for the nation, teaching messages of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation and informing the people on the sound doctrines of the Christian faith. The study also suggests that Christianity as a religion of peace is required to promote peaceful coexistence in the land with the influence of Christian leaders.

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