

Truth seeking

By Jenny Hayes, Okehampton Quaker Meeting

One of the greatest spiritual leaders of recent times was Mohandas Gandhi, he was given the title 'Mahatma', which means 'great soul'. He was a profound seeker after truth and was willing to make tremendous personal sacrifice in pursuit of it. He led a very disciplined and prayerful life and committed himself to creating change through non-violent action. Gandhi's life was an extraordinary and wonderful example of one man, living and giving his life to the full, in the pursuit of truth and helping others.

Often I am aware how limited my perception and understanding of the truth is. It is usually obscured and distorted by my fears, prejudices or preferences in a given situation. For me, it takes time, willingness, prayer and sometimes patience to see the bigger picture more clearly.

In a biography of Gandhi, written by Louis Fischer, he quotes Gandhi as saying; 'in the midst of death, life persists, in the midst of untruth, truth persists, in the midst of darkness, light persists. Hence I gather that God is Life, Truth, Light.'

Perhaps one of the most hopeful and consoling aspects at the root of our lives is that nothing remains fixed or static. Everything changes, however imperceptibly, and so the opportunity is always open to us to seek the truth for ourselves.

Mahatma Gandhi was a wonderful inspiration through his life, his example, his speeches and his writing. These are his words; 'I do dimly perceive that whilst everything around me is ever-changing, ever-dying, there is underlying all that change, a Living Power that is changeless, that holds all together, that creates, dissolves and re-creates. That this informing Power or spirit is God.'

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