

Peace and Leadership

By Chukumeka (Chukes) Maxwell, Exeter Quaker Meeting

Good Morning.....

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.

(George Fox 1656 QF&P 1.02)

In so doing what does it mean to peace and leadership? For Quakers, whose aim is to be seekers of truth. "We are called to live in virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars"

As I child I was part of a civil war in Nigeria and in my lifetime. I have heard and seen aggressive violent leadership which has created toxicity, war, pain and suffering. In this new age it paramount that we aspire through inner and outer peaceful action to be courageous leaders of Peace.

As the Tao the way of living paradoxily says "Enlightened people know that their attitudes have greater influence than their actions. They know that the things they respect and value soon become the motivating force behind their people. Therefore they openly value worthwhile qualities that others can achieve - integrity, flexibility, spontaneity."

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