

The Future of the Religious Society of Friends

I have no background in Quakerism, but came to the Religious Society of Friends through the use of the internet. I felt a need for an outlet in the Spiritual side of life and read through the religions of the world on the BBC website.

What drew me to the Quakers was the notion that there was a place where all people could come together in the consciousness of 'God' (or this immense power that is named so); and that all were welcome and equal, no matter what religion.

The idea that we could all sit together, learn from each other and go forward as one appealed to me greatly and I was made very welcome at the meeting house where I attend.

Through time, however, I have realised that Christianity, i.e. the teachings of the life of Jesus Christ, are at the forefront of the Quakers still and ensures it stays so in the readings from Advices and Queries and is the essence of Quaker Faith and Practice. Indeed, on the front of this book is stated "The book of Christian Discipline...."

This in its very nature excludes people from other faiths and religions.

I feel the world has a thirst for a religion or rather faith that is all inclusive with God and Love at its heart.

I admire the Quakers in their simplicity and action, but suggest it is time to open up and embrace "that of God in everyone" no matter what religion or indeed having none.

