

## Steve's Prayer Letter January 2020



### Dear friends

Greetings for 2020! It doesn't seem that long ago that the year 2020 had a bit of a sci-fi ring to it - you could almost imagine a film called '2020'! But here we are beginning a new decade with, I'm sure, a few new hopes and ideas scattered amongst the usual challenges and tasks that lie ahead. It's so encouraging for us at GenR8 to go into the New Year knowing that so many people are cheering us on. Thank you and please, please continue!

As you may recall from the last prayer letter, each letter will focus on one of the ten values we have within GenR8. Last time we looked at 'teamwork' and this time I want to focus on 'partnership'.

Partnership is something that has been core to GenR8 right from our beginning. The very first off-shoot of GenR8 was a partnership with churches in giving Year 5 and 6 students the opportunity to visit a local church and have an Easter presentation. The churches were warm and welcoming, provided drinks, answered questions and showed children around, whilst GenR8 (not yet called GenR8!), led a presentation on Easter using songs, sketches, puppets and interaction. Since then we have always strived to work in partnership with churches, although as GenR8 has grown this can be challenging to administer, not least due to the large number of schools we now have contact with. At the very least our aim is that church leaders are aware of who we are and what we are doing in their local area. During the Christmas assembly tour, we were greatly encouraged in the 'South team' to see several church leaders and representatives come into school with us. It's great when staff and children can see this link. Our Inspire Prayer Space days, Permanent Prayer Spaces and It's Your Move project see us partner more intentionally with local churches in the delivery of these initiatives. Recently, in Cool Choices, we have begun to invite local church leaders to join us and participate in sessions - this has worked well. But partnership for us extends far beyond our outreach activities. At the heart of GenR8 are several other partners: those who partner with us in prayer (Elev8, prayer letters); those who partner with us in finance; those who partner with us in providing support, encouragement and general interest in what we do. We have also joined with a number of local organisations in delivering events, such as the Eastern URC and Ely Diocese, and are supported by Scripture Union as one of their Local Ministry Partners. We very much see those who volunteer within GenR8 as partners: partners in mission; partners in the gospel; and partners in contributing to who we are as a charity - shaping our guidelines, policies and material. Could we do more? Of course. But at the heart of GenR8 remains a desire to grow and develop this idea of partnership, of working together to build God's Kingdom. Ultimately, we are partners with God in all that we do, how exciting is that! Finally, thank you for your partnership with us!

*GenR8 are brilliant ... I think we should support them in any way they want, and I am very pleased that they want to be seen working in partnership with local churches. – Church Leader*

*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. – Philipians 1: 4-5 (NIV)*

- 🌸 For the New Year ahead and the changes, challenges and choices that we will face.
- 🌸 For Rachel as she oversees so many aspects of our family life, keeping us all on track. For Megan (soon to come back from Australia), Ellen (now at St Ives Cambridge Building Society), Millie (last full term of university) and Alfie (gearing up for GCSEs). Pray too for all our faith journeys.
- 🌸 For GenR8 to know God's guiding hand throughout 2020.
- 🌸 For new volunteers to catch the vision and join our assembly presentation teams.
- 🌸 For all the activity this term including Cool Choices, Xcellr8, Children's Worker Network, Easter assembly presentation rehearsals and tour, It's Your Move team preparation.

*'Charlie had an absolutely amazing time and came back buzzing! Thank you so much!' – Parent (Growing Young Disciples)*