



Dear friends

Sometimes it feels like nothing much has happened since the last prayer letter, well, nothing could be further from the truth this time around! There has been a whirlwind of change in such a short time that few of us have experienced before. I mentioned in January that there would be challenges ahead for 2020 but Covid-19 and all that came with it was far from what I was thinking. At the time of writing we are still in a period of lockdown and uncertainty for what lies ahead. For many even when things settle down it may take months if not years before a genuine recovery is felt particularly for business, trade and the economy and these could have a knock-on effect on charities such as ourselves. Of course the last few weeks have seen a great deal of creative love in action as people have 'loved their neighbours'; we have also seen a great deal of creativity in how people have communicated and brought love, joy and at times great humour to those isolated. We have seen wonderful creativity in how many churches have carried on - having online services, youth and children's groups, as well as in mission to local communities. After all that you won't be surprised to hear that creativity is one of GenR8's values! We aim to communicate creatively in a fun, lively and educational way through the content of the activities we run: whether through the drama, mime, puppetry, song and skits of our assemblies; the mirrors, bubble tubes, aqua beads, and floating dreams in Inspire prayer spaces; or the use of video, drama, conscience alley, and crisps in Cool Choices. Comments like these below are so encouraging to us:

You certainly understand children and God has given you such a special gift in communicating his love to children - Church Volunteer

The children loved what you did - you are always so engaging, creative and clear - Primary school teacher

Whilst as individuals some of us may feel that we are not creative people, collectively - when we come together, we bring a wealth of experience, knowledge and creativity to the table. I am always amazed when I visit GenR8 teams in schools to see the creativity in the way team members portray a character, emotion or just through the way they say a particular line or word. Sometimes I get caught up in the moment, at other times I have to stop myself laughing out loud! We take our inspiration from a creative God. The very first verse of Genesis says, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' Later in 2 Cor 5:17: we read 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!' There is something transformational about being a follower of Jesus! In GenR8 we seek to bring elements of creativity in all that we do so that children will encounter our creator God.

All the staff and children really enjoyed the visit which put across the Easter message of forgiveness in a wonderfully creative and humorous way – Head Teacher

Creativity is not a mood. Creativity is not a gift. It's the very nature of God inside you - Dan McCollam

- 🌸 For the challenges that GenR8 faces in coming months regarding our work.
- 🌸 Wisdom to know how to move forwards this term and creativity in how we might support children and schools.
- 🌸 Give thanks for those who support our work financially and in prayer (nothing without you!).
- 🌸 For Alfie (Yr 11) and Millie (Year 3 university) as they face different end of year assessment marking.
- 🌸 Urgent need for new volunteers to catch the vision and join our assembly presentation teams.
- 🌸 For our trustees as they steer the course of our work.
- 🌸 Give thanks for the amazing team of volunteers in GenR8, for their faithfulness and creativity!

The pupils loved the presentation and it was great to see staff using the supporting materials to take the presentation further into their RE Learning.

Head teacher following an Easter assembly we were able to complete!