



Dear friends

Who could have predicted all that has happened over the past few months, and indeed who can predict what will happen over the next few months! Back in March I (naively) hoped that things would be back to normal by the end of April, then May, then July... well September is a good time for a new start! But here we are - things have changed and shifted, but rather than back to 'normal', we are in, as some like to call it, a 'new normal'; a state that most of us don't really want to be in, and one that continues to challenge our resolve, resilience, state of mind, and for many our faith. Most weeks we meet as a staff team on Zoom and it won't surprise you to hear we have talked a lot about what has been happening, how we feel, are coping, and how we might make sense of our faith in the midst of these testing and challenging times.

My recent prayer letters have focused on a GenR8 value, and following on from teamwork, partnership, and creativity we have faith. The GenR8 teams shared Christian faith is vital in our identity as a charity and as a body of people. It's the one sure and fast thing we have in common as we seek to advance God's Kingdom through the work and mission of GenR8. We may differ in many ways, such as background (life and church), interests and experiences, but what binds us together is our journey of faith, our love for Jesus. Faith is our common denominator, our heartbeat as well as our lifeline. Recent times have tested, challenged, and frustrated - amongst many other words - most of us. It won't surprise you to know that we at GenR8 are not immune to struggles, hurt and frustration, but time and time again we find ourselves coming back to God as someone who is faithful, reliable, and present in our lives. Someone who we can trust and hold onto even in times of uncertainty, challenge, and loss. Of course, it doesn't always feel like it and at times we have to dig deep, or let go and surrender, but where else would we go, who else would we turn to? One of the greatest privileges of GenR8 is the team of people, all different, all unique, and all loved as people of faith.

VIDEO - Due to circumstances much of our work with children (schools and church) over recent months, and for the term ahead, has been through video. In that vein we have put together a video for this term's 'termly newsletter'! You can find this video on the following link <https://youtu.be/iDKFXQgKaI4> or on the home page of the GenR8 website on the 'Termly Newsletter' button - we hope you enjoy the different format. The video is just under 10 minutes long and should give you a flavour of what's been happening. As always do get back with any questions or if you would like to find out more.

'All three of my children... were captivated with this (video) and the way you told it was fab - they loved the songs and how they were interpreted into the story. Thank you - it certainly perked them all up this evening when they watched it. We'll look forward to the next one.' - Thriplow Family

Faith is a choice to trust God even when the road ahead seems uncertain - Dave Willis

- 🌸 Pray for the GenR8 'Connect' and 'Reflect' videos going into primary schools and churches this term
- 🌸 Several volunteers who face challenging personal health circumstances
- 🌸 For decisions on our February 2021 Xcellr8 weekend for 8-11s and the best way to proceed
- 🌸 For Alfie starting sixth form, Millie and Megan in new jobs and Ellen as she applies for a new position
- 🌸 For wisdom in future planning, given frequently changing circumstances
- 🌸 The opportunity for a new trustee to join the GenR8 team
- 🌸 For this term's Cool Choices and Christmas presentation plans (see video)

'I watched the (It's Your Move) video this afternoon and I just wanted to say what an amazing job you've done with it! It's absolutely brilliant! I think the music is great, the slides are perfect, and everything flows really well.'