



Dear friends

I imagine we have all been dealt a few curve balls over past weeks and months, as the unexpected, surprising, and disruptive has crept into our lives or hit us full in the face! Maybe for some of us the curve ball has become the norm as we battle not only coronavirus but personal and family difficulties. In addition, a number devastating news stories with images of individuals such as George Floyd and Sarah Everard have had a big impact on our thinking and conversations. As I write a storm is brewing over allegations of abuse in schools.

In many of these areas we have been encouraged to reflect on how much we ourselves respect the value and worth of each person as an individual; our belief that no life should be lost or damaged needlessly. Although not as newsworthy, this respect for each person, each child, is at the heart of GenR8 and another of our core values, respect.

Respect – GenR8 recognises the worth and creativity of each individual. We believe in the importance of demonstrating this by caring for and valuing one another.

As a team we try to regularly remind ourselves that even though we may be in front of a large crowd of children for an assembly, lesson or at Xcellr8, this sea of faces consists of individual children who are each valuable and important. Each and every 'assembly' is made up of individuals that God has created, loves and has died for on the cross. The challenge for us all is to see people the way God does in every circumstance.

Over recent months we haven't had a physical crowd, but we have had hundreds of children interacting with our Connect, Reflect and Xcellr8 videos either at school or at home. We continue to try hard to ensure that the videos we produce communicate God's love for each and every one of us as unique and valuable individuals and the importance of respecting each other through what we think, say and do.

Of course, we don't always get it right, but having this Godly respect for one another within the GenR8 team is so important. It's hard to communicate respect if we don't demonstrate it ourselves! One of the brilliant things about GenR8 has been the long term commitment of many team members, it's something I value very highly, dare I say something I'm proud of. GenR8 volunteers, come from a variety of backgrounds, upbringings and life and church experiences, but at the core is the mission God has called us to and a healthy respect for one another.

I really love quotes, for me they often communicate what whole books have been written about. I came across a quote recently from Dorothy Day who said: *"I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least."* There's a challenge to us all in that!

Please pray

- For the planning, recording and editing of Connect, Reflect, Xcellr8 and It's Your Move videos for primary schools this term.
- For plans to support Year 6 students in up to 16 primary schools with an Inspire prayer space transition bag as part of our It's Your Move initiative for July.
- For my daughter Ellen as she starts in a team leader position at Cambridge Building Society.
- For my daughter Mille as she starts a new job as a one-to-one support in a London primary school.
- That the GenR8 team can continue to be motivated and encouraged during these challenging times.
- For creativity, boldness and vision for the future.

Respect is one of the greatest expressions of love
Miguel Angel Ruiz

Important news – We need to move our registered address from the Old Bank, Cottenham soon – please pray for a smooth transition.

GenR8 is a Local Ministry Partner of Scripture Union