



Dear friends

It's been a demanding year in some ways, my health hasn't been 100% and now I'm over 55 (I know I look much younger!) everything seems just a little bit harder! However I am constantly reminded through the encouragement we receive, from young and old, from school and church, that I am participating in something valuable and life-affecting. Of course none of this is possible without a host of people who contribute through volunteering, prayer, finance, as well as those who advocate our work. Thank you all for giving GenR8 and myself the opportunity to do what we do.

2018 is shaping up to be another challenging year, although one that brings with it great opportunity for growth. Lucy Mann, our new development worker, has been with us a term and has been immersed in 'all things GenR8' during that time. This new year will give Lucy opportunity to focus in on xcellr8 and GYL in particular: to develop the opportunities for mission and discipleship with children.

Recruiting new volunteers is an on-going challenge for us, but one that is vital if we are to continue to impact 40,000 children each term. When you receive comments like: 'Thank you for teaching us about God' (student); 'Thank you and the team for sharing the love of Jesus' (Head Teacher); 'It was the best afternoon ever' (Student); 'It's a privilege to partner with you in the Gospel'; (Local Vicar) you know you are part of something special right on your doorstep. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining GenR8 please get in touch. stevev@genr8.org

It has been quieter at home! Our eldest Megan is in Australia at least for a year, whilst Millie has been at Middlesex University for her first term, studying dance. It was a difficult transition to begin with, and Rachel and I spent a lot of time looking at family pictures from the last 20 years, reminiscing and being amazed at how quickly it all seems to have gone! The inevitable has also happened: Alfie has overtaken Rachel in height and he is not far off my mighty shoe size! This transformation is taking place under our noses and we are left wondering what happened to having four children under the age of ten? Ellen is a comforting consistent presence at home but is considering a change of job within Cambridge Building Society, as several positions have become available over recent weeks, so we are watching this space!

I don't know whether you find it hard to wait on God? I suspect I'm not alone in finding this difficult! The balance between what I perceive is needed (and when) often seems to differ from God's plan! I know I should trust Him, and I do... but I'm not so good at living this out day-by-day, particularly when things go wrong or not the way I had hoped. You would think I would have learnt by now! But I take every comfort in the disciples who regularly didn't seem to 'get it', but whom Jesus chose to carry out His mission on earth. That's the amazing reality: this is God's plan; you and I to carry out His mission on earth - to GO into all nations. For me and for GenR8 that means to GO right here!

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." Corrie ten Boom

- 🌱 For better health and life balance in 2018.
- 🌱 For Rachel as she awaits the next step (op?) for her heel (*plantar fasciitis*) problem.
- 🌱 For the family in their different stages, positions and locations of life.
- 🌱 To be able to trust God in the midst of challenge and change.
- 🌱 For more volunteers to join our assembly and Inspire teams.
- 🌱 For an assembly team booking co-ordinator.
- 🌱 For all the activity this term - Inspire days, Inspire Permanent, Cool Choices, xcellr8, Big Picture, Children's Worker Network and our Easter assembly presentations.

*"So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children."
And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. – Genesis 50:21*