



Dear friends

Thank you for your on-going interest and support - it is very much appreciated and provides a great bedrock for me. I am humbled that people who have known me since Histon Baptist Church 'youth work' days have stuck with me and continue to offer support and words of encouragement. You would have thought I would have put them off by now! The plan for the next few prayer letters is to focus on some of the values we have within GenR8, values that underpin who and what we strive to be in the context of the work we do. Our values are: **integrity, partnership, working ecumenically, respect, service, teamwork, faith, hope, creativity and good practice.**

These are in no particular order as we feel they are all equally important and in each we need to seek God's face, God's grace and God's forgiveness. I am going to start with teamwork. Teamwork sounds quite straightforward, but anyone who has been part of a team will know that it's not always as easy as it first appears; after all we are flawed human beings! GenR8 is largely constructed around the notion of team. We have several assembly teams, an Xcellr8 team, Affiliate teams, a Cool Choices team, an Inspire Prayer Spaces team, a team of trustees, and a team of supporters amongst others. Together these form the GenR8 team. Many small charities and organisations don't operate with anywhere near the number of people as GenR8, choosing to focus more on their paid staff members. That is not to say that any one way is better than another, but in GenR8 we choose to work with others and desire for people to come and be part of all that we do. The truth is if all the team of volunteers who give time, skills and commitment to GenR8 moved on at once, the work we do would drastically alter; indeed much of it could not continue! Of course, being and building team is not without its problems: individual circumstances change, and there are times of challenge where it's not always easy to navigate a way through. Jesus himself created teams, most notably with the disciples, and encountered a few challenges along the way! We are also a team under the spotlight where most of what we do can come under scrutiny, some of which can be influenced by social changes and media attention. But we are a team with a vision: a vision to communicate the love of Jesus for each person, a vision to communicate a positive image of the Christian faith, a vision to share what it means for God to come to earth in the form of a baby and to be prepared to die on a cross. This vision, alongside our shared faith, is the glue that holds us together as a team - a glue that has seen so many of the GenR8 team volunteer for over 10 years, some for 18 years! In GenR8 we are committed to being team for as long as God leads us in this way. More importantly, of course, we are all part of God's team!

'You have an amazing team of volunteers and it's been a pleasure to be a part of something that will truly grow God's Kingdom.' – Former GenR8 team member

For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. - 1 Corinthians 3:9 (NIV)

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. – Attributed to Margaret Mead

-  For the GenR8 team and their amazing commitment to the work.
-  For Millie starting her last year at Middlesex University, Alfie in his last year of secondary school, Megan likely to have to return to the UK and Ellen in her new location of St Ives following a promotion.
-  To have courage and perseverance particularly through challenging times.
-  For the trustees in their responsibilities of governance and counsel.
-  For all the activity this term including 26 Cool Choices sessions (Sept/Oct), Inspire Prayer Spaces at Milton and Teversham primary schools, Xcellr8 and GYD planning, Children's Worker Network, GenR8 training day and Christmas assembly presentation rehearsals.

'I think I can honestly say this was one of the best assemblies I have seen!' – Head Teacher from summer tour on theme of the Bible