

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I hope you are well and staying safe and connected with your communities and our Father in these challenging times. Like many of you will have been doing in your churches, we have had to adapt fast to support young people. We have learnt different ways of reaching out and supporting the most vulnerable and maintaining community and are trying to make the most of the opportunities that arise, whilst also recognising the limitations that are placed on the work.

### Young People



The graphic to the left gives a bit of a picture of what we have been up to since lockdown began. Activities include setting up new Instagram Live and Snapchat channels, running weekly arts showcases online, and making sure young people are supported with college homework (we have given out over 25 laptops and tablets to young people).

We were determined from the outset to keep our services going and to protect the relationships of trust that we have built up over so many years. Each number to the left represents an interaction with one of God's image-bearers, and an opportunity to bring hope to some of the most vulnerable.

### Black Lives Matter



As well as being busy supporting young people, we have been challenged by the tragic killing of George Floyd and the subsequent rise in support and overdue calls for justice for black lives and all victims of racism and prejudice. At XLP, we have been taking a hard look at ourselves as well as our attitude in the ethnically diverse areas where we work. A few weeks' ago, I had a conversation with Claude and Natalie – two

of XLP's youth workers – about some of the challenges we face and the need to "audit our hearts". You can watch it [here](#) or by clicking on the image.

These challenges of supporting young people during this time and working towards a more just society are not ones we do alone, and not ones we want young people to face alone either. We are so grateful for your prayers and support and have felt them during this time of uncertainty and change.

### A Virtual Visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury

Finally, we were delighted to have the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, join us for a virtual tour of one of our Double Decker Buses, before meeting some young people from across our projects. It was such an encouragement to have his support and afterwards he commented, "I was so impressed by my virtual visit to XLP; not just the skill and dedication of youth workers, but also the value of the young people and how we can learn from one another. The work XLP has been able to do since lockdown is excellent, and the way young people were engaging and staying positive was inspiring."



#### Please pray for us

- Please continue to pray for XLP and the 1000s of young people we are working with, and for the impact that these months have had on them
- Please pray for boldness and resilience for XLP's remarkable group of youth workers
- Please pray that we can continue, even when restrictions are in place, to respond to the needs of vulnerable young people and build the best positive future for them

Thank you as ever for your support and partnership in the Gospel.

With all good wishes in Christ,

Luke and the team

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