

Having a Purposeful New Year !! *By Hong Teck*

What was your best memory of 2006? What was your worst memory of 2006? What did I do well? Where did I not do very well?. Well, ask the best questions about your past year and you are on your way to a more purposeful year in 2007.

Here's a few I found helpful in my reflection of last year.

- 1) **List what did you do a lot in 2006 that didn't really matter?**
- 2) **List what were you running away from in 2006?**
- 3) **List what will you do if there's no time, skill & resource constraint?**
- 4) **List what do you want to be remembered for when you die?**

Resolution 2007

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

After we have reflected & learned from our past year, its time to forget what's behind and press on towards winning the prize which God has in store heavenward for us in the new year. I encourage you to consider the three 'T's in your resolution for the new year.

Take 'responsibility'

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. - Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

The first T is to take responsibility over your life! You own your life, nobody else does, so make it a point to make things happen. The opposite of 'responsibility' is 'blame'. When things do not work out in our lives, it is not beneficial to say that it's because others are in the way or others are not doing what they are suppose to. You are the only one responsibility to make your life and things around you happen because you have been given the power and discipline to do, impact and influence.

Because God doesn't force, only one person can make the biggest difference in your life. YOU! Decide to take responsibility over your life and God will enable and empower you. It's that simple so try it, write down what you ought to take hold of in the new year.

1. I take responsibility over _____ . I will _____

2. I take responsibility over _____ . I will _____

3. I take responsibility over _____ . I will _____

Examples...

- *I take responsibility over my **leadership**. I will **build the team by building personal relationships with everyone under me**.*
- *I take responsibility over my **spiritual life**. I will **spend 20 minutes reading God's word and another 20 minutes praying to God in the morning**.*
- *I take responsibility over my **health**. I will **jog 10 km twice a week on Mondays and Friday mornings**.*
- *I take responsibility over my **time management**. I will **spend the first 10 minutes of my day planning & praying what I should be doing, before I start work**.*
- *I take responsibility over my **life**. I will **do things that count and stop running around in circles**.*

Think BIG

The second 'T' is to think Big. As long as God wants you to think, think Big! Be a Joseph styled dreamer and dream of things that God has promised you (i.e. that you are the head and not the tail and that you are the chosen generation, the royal priesthood, sons and daughters of the almighty God) Start moving away from doing little things that doesn't matter (and most of the time selfish) and start doing something purposeful that is beyond our dreams. Get out of mediocrity and into things that God wants to do in our life such that when we die, we can say 'I've made my life count', 'I've run the race and I've finished the race' or 'I have been faithful to what's been given to me'.

The reason why resolutions fail and keep getting recycled every year is because most of the time they are so insignificant that you are not even convinced as God's created being that its worth keeping. So there! Think Big!

Fear stops us from thinking big. If you have found out what your fears were in 2006, confront them in 2007. Fear is the bogey-man that keeps on jumping on you and haunts you until you can say to him face to face 'I'm not afraid of you anymore! I know the perfect love that casts out all fears. I'm moving on'.

To Think Big write down the following

My 1st Big Dream for 2007 is _____

My 2nd Big Dream for 2007 is _____

My 3rd Big Dream for 2007 is _____

Examples...

- *My Big Dream for 2007 is **to make a difference to the next generation by making my ministry in HopeKids the most effective one**.*
- *My Big Dream for 2007 is **to be a leader over 20 people and help make a difference in their lives***

- *My Big Dream for 2007 is to record an album consisting of 10 songs that speaks about God*
- *My Big Dream for 2007 is to join the new HopeKids Outreach Team and know kids personally to make a difference in the next generation.*

Track What's Going On

People who are successful spiritually have done one thing well. They have always turned 'mourning into dancing' and 'sorrow into joy'. How they do that is that they know problems exist in almost everything we attempt to do so they become master interpreters of situations. Problems become lessons; failures become stepping stones towards success. Life becomes their greatest teacher. They are not in the blame game but in the learning game. They allow God to give them positive perspectives in seemingly negative situations.

Anyone who has kept a journal knows that the discipline brings clarity to our motives and actions. I believe that no lesson is really learned until it's clear enough to be written down. Journaling is one of many ways to track what's going on in your life. We can track what's going on in our life, our goals and all with a friend, with our shepherd or even our sheep or during reflective quiet time with the Lord.

With our new responsibilities and our big dreams, we need some way to track what's going on because obstacles may (or should I say will surely) come. Tracking it and bringing it into proper Godly perspective will help us keep to it just because these things we do are our calling and are just so important.

So how are we tracking our life in 2007? Write it down

I will track my goals with _____

I will track my goals with _____

Example...

*I will track my goals with **writing my journal on lessons learned every day***
*I will track my goals with **evaluation with my shepherd on a quarterly basis.***

So guys, there we have it Resolution for 2007.... "Take responsibility", "Think Big" and "Track What's Going On". I wish you success in all that you do! My dream is that you will succeed in life. Have a great year with God in 2007. Remember energy and work has to be done, you either use it fighting fire & coping with your situations or you can use it to fulfill the purpose that God has for you.

Remember you are not alone...Be His!
 – Hong Teck

Appendix 1 – Your Purpose Statement

Above all – If you haven't had it, you owe it to yourself to fill up your life purpose statement and paste it where you see it on a daily basis. It's so empowering to have one and it becomes your reason to wake up every morning. Don't worry if its corny, unclear or even wrong the first few times you do it. If you reflect and adjust it as you go, you'll eventually get close to what you feel God has created you for.

I, _____ **am God's Beloved,**

I'm loved and directed and my life purpose is

Here are my values

Things that guides me in my purpose

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____