

Resolution for the new year (of the heavenly calendar)

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This is a calender

Before I announce one of my new year's resolutions, I'd like to draw to your attention to the spelling of the word "calendar". Yes, there is a letter "a" in the word calendar. The word "calender" (with an "e" as the penultimate letter) is a legitimate word, and is correctly spelt, but does not refer to the medium we use for referring to the days, weeks and months of the year. A *calender* is a roller for making paper or film smooth and glossy. As far as I'm aware, there are no heavenly calenders, as curious as those might be. (If I holy salted an ordinary calender, would that make it a heavenly calender?) The heavenly calendar I'm referring to is the Far Eastern lunar calendar adopted by Unificationists

to plan and chronicle our lives, as distinct from the Gregorian (or, indeed, any other) calendar. Since True Father is the new root, the true Adam, the new ancestor for all humanity, (like a boss) he decided to recreate the cosmos, including time and space. And since I attend True Parents, as a member of their extended family, I'd like to follow the calendar he promoted. (I've posted on this topic before.)



Now that I've got those things off my chest, I'll present what I originally intended to post:

I didn't set any New Year's resolutions on 31 December 2012. Not because I was lazy, or because I forgot, but I intentionally deferred all resolution-setting until the end of January 2014. With the 2nd year of Cheon Il Guk (the 2nd year since Foundation Day last year) starting on 31st January, I wanted to make an effort to synchronise my lifestyle around the heavenly calendar, and part of this effort included preparing resolutions which could be reported and

offered through prayer at midnight between Thursday 30th January and Friday 31st January. In the last few weeks I've been prayerfully reflecting, as well as discussing with my wife, the goals we'd like to accomplish in the next 12 months. By setting measurable goals with identifiable targets, these resolutions should result in meaningful change.

I haven't set many goals – I believe in setting a manageable number of goals so that one doesn't feel swamped – and I'm not going to share all of them here. But there is one resolution I would like to share with you: **I resolve, in this new year, to post a blog at least once a week.**

I haven't been terribly consistent with my blog. I know that the key to a successful blog is not necessarily quality, but quantity. This challenges the perfectionist in me, as I often hesitate to post a blog unless I feel I have the perfect idea and I have created a perfect post. In my recent reflections, I have reconciled myself with the acknowledgement that God has blessed me with the gift of communicating: As long as I

am prolific enough, I'm sure that the quality will take care of itself. In my research on successful blogging, a blogger is unlikely to predict when a post will be popular or not. As long as I'm posting content, some of it will appeal to someone, and as an act of public service, I shouldn't hold back, just in case my musings might touch one person's heart.



Further, I've realised that I'm afraid of criticism. The scientist in me is always searching for the correct answer, and I hesitate to state an opinion or assert a position just in case I subsequently discover that I might be wrong or inaccurate. Something I've learnt over the last couple of years while studying for my MA in pastoral theology, however, is that critical dialogue is a good thing. By presenting my ideas to the public, I hope that the criticism I receive will positively shape my understanding of reality. I might be wrong about some things, and so it would be better to announce my

incorrect understanding so that others can demonstrate the errors in my thinking. In some areas, I might have a better understanding, as unpopular or unappealing as that understanding might be to particular audiences, but by engaging in critical dialogue with those disagreeing voices, I will discover ways of arguing my points while being sensitive to the different perspectives of certain issues. To crudely conclude, I should stop being a wuss and learn to gratefully accept the feedback. Some haters and going to hate, but if I learn to discern who the trolls are, I hope my skin will be thick enough to not be personally affected. (I've always disagreed with the proverb about sticks and stones hurting more than words; in my experience, the opposite has been true.) I should also learn to appreciate the correcting influence of voices who either disagree or demonstrate holes in my arguments, as they will be providing me an invaluable service.

At the end of the day, this blog is not for my sake; it's for the sake of others. I want to offer this blog for the joy and glory of my heavenly parent. If I can serve you through this blog, then I should post regularly.

So here's my public declaration of intent to blog weekly. I'll aim to post something every Tuesday. All that I ask for in return, if it pleases you, is to read, subscribe and comment.