

Dear Friends,



I wonder how many of us made a New Year's resolution for 2019? And if we did, how long are we going to be able to keep it for? May one reason why such resolutions are not as 'popular' as perhaps they used to be lie in the fact that they weren't always realistic or we had no clear plan about how to achieve them? Just sometimes a New Year's resolution can seem little more than a wish list, a series of things we'd like to change about our lives, but not much more than that. They can always become very self-centred though as Christians I believe we should always try to aim higher and ask ourselves, "Is it God's will I am trying to pursue here rather than my own somewhat selfish desire?"

Our daughter Heidi as a teenager never operated with New Year resolutions – she called them **revolutions** instead! And when you think about it, there's something to be said for that. If we *are* going to make them, let's promise to do something really earth-shattering and yes, revolutionary, for God. Why not?

In Jesus' time New Year, as now, was often marked with much noise including blasts on the trumpets in the temple courts. We don't hear much if anything about fireworks in the Bible though and certainly Madness was not on the scene then, although I have to say I really enjoyed them at Westminster Central Hall on New Year's Eve! Then, as now, New Year was a time for celebration, reminiscing, planning, and for being families and friends together, hoping to do better, trying just that little bit harder.

So, do I have a New Year **revolution** for 2019? In all honesty, not one that springs clearly to mind though I do pray for a desire and ability to try and achieve an even closer walk with God, in my preparation for worship, through Bible study and by speaking and sharing my love for Him more with the people I engage with and come across. So, no pressure, Andersen!

God bless you!

**Rev Preben Andersen**