



*By C. Peter Van Gorder*

In my dream a celestial being stood by my bed. The light that emanated from him obscured his bodily form. He held in his hands a large book, which he offered me. I hesitated a moment, then took it and opened it carefully. What would its pages contain? A detailed listing of all of my sins and mistakes of the past year, perhaps? To my surprise, the pages were blank.

"What is this?" I asked.

"As this book is fresh and new, so is the year before you," he answered. "This is another chance for you to do the right thing. Make your mark carefully upon its pages, for it cannot be easily erased. Take care, for what you write will be read for generations to come." With that, the dream ended.

A short while later, I was out shopping with my wife. As I was waiting for her to try on some clothes, I browsed through the store. My eye caught a writing book on sale—one of those diaries with blank pages, to be filled up with musings, dreams, prayers. I found a cover I liked and bought the book.

My wife was skeptical of my purchase, "Don't you think you have enough half-empty writing books at home?"

"Yes," I answered, "but this one just beckoned me somehow."

There is something wonderful and frightening about looking at the blank page of a new book. Like the new year, it waits for us to make our mark upon it. Let's write beautiful words upon its pages, words that will bring joy to others.



## RESOLUTIONS

*By Ian Bach*

*This year...  
I'll take more time to  
laugh and smile,  
To feel the wind upon  
my face,  
To learn true wisdom  
from a child,  
Give my soul the  
needed space,  
To live life pure and  
clear...  
...this year.*

*This year...  
I'll learn to turn off  
my computer,  
Interact with human  
beings,  
Spend less time in on-  
line stupor,  
More time learning,  
breathing, seeing  
All that life holds  
dear...  
...this year.*

*This year...  
I will resolve to write  
that letter  
That I have too long  
neglected,  
Make an aching heart  
feel better,  
Cheer a friend who  
feels dejected,  
Bring someone some  
cheer...  
...this year.*

*This year...  
I'll not be hijacked by  
my deadlines,  
Or imprisoned by  
ambitions.  
Or let dismal, gloomy  
headlines  
Dictate my heart's  
disposition.  
I'll choose faith, not  
fear...  
...this year.*

*This year...  
I'll see the struggling  
flower beneath  
The hard, frosty  
exterior  
Of one who lets  
frustration seethe  
Because they feel  
inferior.  
I'll try to draw them  
near...  
...this year.*

*This year...  
No high and mighty  
resolutions  
Fit for presidents and  
kings.  
I'll start a quiet  
revolution,  
Seek these simple  
loving things  
Above wealth or  
career...  
...this year.*

*If you'd like more inspirational material, subscribe to Activated! Contact the address on this sheet, or visit [www.activated.org](http://www.activated.org).*