

“New year, new me.” This past winter, I’ve had countless conversations about goals, resolutions, and plans for the new year, and to be honest, I felt insufficient in every one. Out of uncertainty of the future, I couldn’t articulate my vision for a “new me,” let alone a “new ACF.” But the more I prayed and reflected, the more I’ve let go of my intellect’s need for a complete, self-conceived plan.

Although we are looking towards a fresh new year that will surely come with surprises, we are entering this with the same faithful God – the God who establishes our every step¹, the God whose grace is sufficient for us², indeed, the God who is the author and finisher of our faith³. This past year, it has been nothing short of a blessing to serve on exec and see the fellowship blossom as we seek God first. Watching God abundantly working in and through you guys, I’m in awe once again at His wonderful plans and purposes⁴. Admittedly, I initially thought the role of president was something far beyond me; but through God’s unfailing grace I present to you myself and the vision God has been placing in my heart for ACF next year.

Jesus is the center of our faith – He is our identity and the reason we meet as ACF. Although there are many areas that we can grow as individuals and as a community, I hope that we can continually recognize that our *raison d’être* is the Good News of our restored relationship with God⁵. It is our journey deeper into this great Love that molds us from the inside out, allowing us to reflect more of His image⁶. Through Friday night programs, Koin groups, and year events, I hope ACF can explore what this relationship with God means for us individually and as a community. On the same note, I hope the importance of God’s Word as a guiding lamp⁷ will be emphasized. As one of my koin members once phrased it, the Bible is God’s love letter to humanity; in fact, it is a primary way that God speaks to us today⁸. Apart from the Bible studies held throughout the year, I hope that we can explore the critical role of the Word in our relationship with God.

As we draw near to God, I hope that our fellowship would not just *be* together, but fulfill our purpose to *do* together – that is, do God’s will together. As we learn to listen to His voice (e.g. through the Word), I pray we will be able to glorify Him with all our might⁹, pray earnestly in everything¹⁰, and serve each other and our community wholeheartedly¹¹. Doing this effectively, for example, could involve more clearly partitioning the different ministries (interfellowship events, year events, frosh cell, etc) between serving leaders, and encouraging everyone to step up and serve in some manner. Ultimately, we are called for a great (in both magnitude and in goodness) mission, and it is my hope that we will continually remind ourselves that we ultimately get our strength to do these things from Christ¹².

Over the past (almost) 3 years, I have been blessed so much through you guys at ACF because of your dedicated Christ-like love. Continuing to be open with each other about our spiritual journeys and the current climates of our faith will allow us to truly support one another as God intended¹³. I know it will be impossible for me to individually pour into each person as much as I would like; however, I hope to approach this by first pouring into the execs and fellowship leaders so that their ministries will flourish, so ACF as a whole can blossom and bear good fruit.

God has made everything beautiful in its time¹⁴, and regardless of who He uses to serve as ACF president, I am fully confident that He will ultimately be glorified. If I am to serve as president, I hope to lead ACF such that we continually pursue a relationship with God through His Word, build up serving leaders, and support each other in our spiritual walks. But as we prepare for an uncertain journey into a new year, we can rest in the fact that we are led by the same faithful God, who has never failed to pull through:)

Slay and pray,

Saranya<3

[1] Proverbs 16:9 [2] 2 Corinthians 12:9 [3] Hebrews 12:2 [4] Isaiah 55:9, Ephesians 3:20 [5] 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 [6] 2 Corinthians 3:18, Colossians 3:10 [7] Psalm 119:105 [8] Hebrews 4:12 [9] Mark 12:30, Colossians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 10:31 [10] Ephesians 6:18 [11] Mark 12:31, 1 John 3:18 [12] Galatians 2:20, 2 Timothy 1:7 [13] Galatians 6:2, James 5:16 [14] Ecclesiastes 3:11