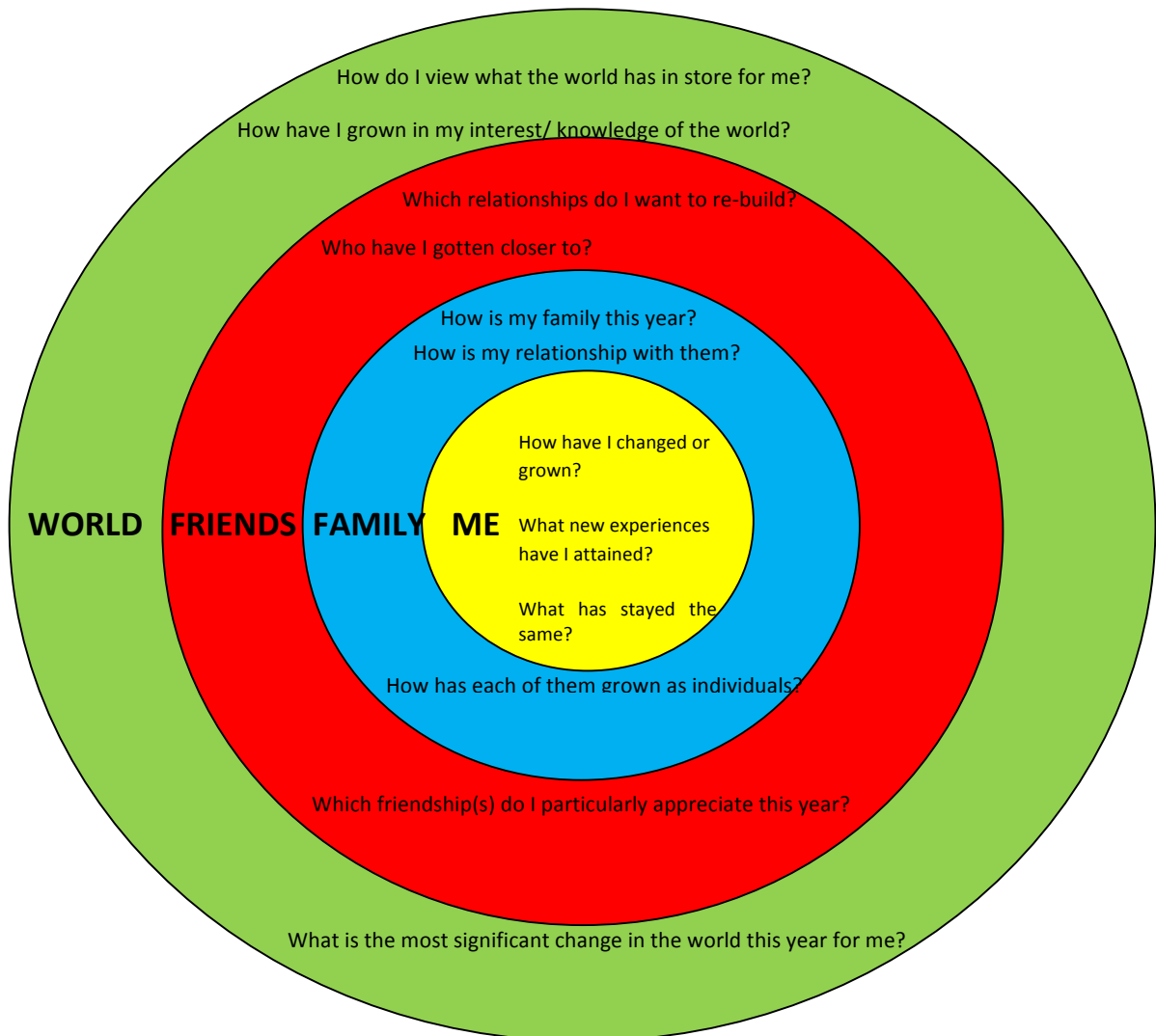


2012: What's to come?

Endings are for thankfulness; beginnings are for faith. – John Piper

2011:



Relationships can sometimes be seen as concentric circles rippling outwards from us. Just like ripples, they taper in force as they spread outwards; and the influence is often the most intense in the inner circles.

Do you have an inner circle of friends? Who are they? It might be useful to reflect on your friendships and relationships at this crossroads:

- *Who* were my closest friends? *How* much do I trust them?
- *What* values did I glean from them? *Which* ones do I want to keep and which ones do I want to discard?
- *When* were the best times? When were the worst? Do I have any regrets? *Which* relationships did I want to build but was not able to?

The world has gone through tumultuous change this year. Many new humans have been born, but there has also been many significant deaths. Osama bin Laden, Muammar Gaddafi, Steve Jobs, Christopher Hitchens and Kim Jong IL.

Similarly, in a fast-paced world, our own personal worlds also grow with ebb and flow. How has your world changed? Which parts of you have been newly born, and which parts have passed on?

2012:

"Man's main task in life is to give birth to himself, to become what he potentially is." - Erich Fromm

How would you like to give birth to yourself in 2012; which potentialities would you like to pursue?

Work



- What goals do I set for myself?
- Which relationships do I want to build? Which colleagues could be my friends?
- What do I want to learn to do better?

Family:



- Which members of my family do I want to draw closer to?
- Which parts of my family life have been the biggest blessings for me?
- Which parts of my family's influence on me do I want to leave behind?

Friends:



- Which friends do I want to get to know more?
- What do I want to do for them?
- What do I need that I need to ask for?

Life:



- What are my passions to pursue, continue?
- Which parts of life do I need to be more cautious to guard for myself?
- How can I take care of myself more?



Liren is currently a counselor with one of Singapore's educational institutions. He is a trained social worker but spends about half his free time drinking coffee. His dream is to open a café where people can come and freely converse with him about life and what it means to live. His life has been shaped by his profession, Psalm 90 and the numerous overseas volunteer trips he has participated in. Liren is known to be a bit of a thinker and he chronicles his thoughts and coffee journeys on www.liren.sg. He really loves good times with his family, his girlfriend and his French Press.