

Well, maybe the Mayans got it wrong. I won't hold it against them. The future is full of surprises. I like it that way.

The world seemed to shake this year, did it not? The end of tyrants. The uprising of the uprising. Our proud systems collapsing like tired lungs.

What a world! What a time to be alive! To face such daunting challenges. There seems such a fight for values, power, ideas and life.

It all can make a man humble.

I, for one, am grateful in such times to have purpose and energy, food in the fridge, opportunity and that breathy word *hope*. In the context of God's great love it animates all things, giving a firm foundation to stand on as the whole world seems to swing.



Do you feel like time is sort of ripping by, blink and you miss it? Me too. In the rapid pace, upon reflection, I'm grateful for a full 2011.

Some highlights:



. The sold out, critically acclaimed world premiere of my play, *She Has A Name* in February/March. It was my first major production as a playwright, and hopefully the first of many more. We're planning a Canadian tour of the show in 2012.

. #rtvRD. We planned and pulled off an incredible event in my hometown in April that brought together people from all walks of life to pray, create, and learn about the realities of human trafficking. From international organizations, a national lawmaker, local agencies and normal people like you and me, we had a meaningful time.

. Travel to BC. I just returned from an enjoyable holiday visiting Dan and Christy on Vancouver Island over Christmas, and had the fortune to see them and many other friends and some dear family on a trip to the coast in May. I was checking out a grad school that I, ultimately, chose not to attend.

. Full time work. Yes, you read that correctly. In August I took a position as the Public Relations consultant at Red Deer College. It was a surprise to me - a door of provision and opportunity that opened. I walked through said door and have been enjoying my role there. It has made life busy as I continue to work to bring the play on tour, oversee the work of the non-profit, and continue to write plays and other things.

I continue to occupy space online at www.andrewkooman.com. Blogging, waxing poetical and interviewing artists, activists and bold thinkers. It's a great way to keep in my loop.

If you facebook, blog or tweet, please friend me so I can stay in your digital loop!

It's a strange business, recounting the time, numbering our days, remembering. The year was filled with so many things.

A certain and clear theme threaded into the tapestry of my time was the sound and shape of words, organized and arranged to grapple with and find meaning about the realities of creativity and faith and the nature of justice.

I was humbled again to have new opportunity to share the spoken word at different conferences and at Red Deer's first ever TEDx event. I also was given the opportunity to speak to new Canadians.

I worked to help a partner organization translate our book about Asian migrants and refugees into Mandarin, something we achieved just before the bell rang to usher in the new year. And I started the long journey of transcribing my Grandfather's sermons, an iceberg upon whose tip I have only just started to stand upon.

And there was so much more. Great books and films. Even better friends. Beloved family. With laughter and some adventure, and yes, tears.

And it's that kind of world.

We are held, you and I, betwixt and between the beauty and ugliness, the hope and the fear, the mundane and glorious. Right now. The past behind, the future ahead of us.

May you step bravely into it, with Christ at the centre. He is the source of all hope. His presence with us, in us, makes all the difference. Be sure of this in 2012, whatever it brings.

With love,

