

2009 Round Up



FEBRUARY



Lightning recovery

THE STORY:

One Monday morning in January, our managing editor received an email from *Lifestyle* reader Christine Chee, enquiring about freelance work for her friend. The friend - **Carolyn Lim** was struggling to regain her life after being struck by lightning while windsurfing. From a super-active lifestyle revolving around time with her loving boyfriend, dancing, sea sports and studying for a post-graduate degree, Carolyn lost her independence along with the ability to walk, all fine motor skills in her right hand, and was left with a skewed right eye and slurring speech. At her darkest moment, Carolyn even contemplated suicide.

As Christine said, despite her physical problems, Carolyn's brain remained sharp. So, we asked her to write about what she went through - a cathartic release is often helpful. Her first-person account on her ordeal and recovery process, as well as an interview with her husband William - appeared in our February issue.

UPDATE:

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger. And stronger Carolyn is, indeed. After her dramatic and touching story appeared in *Lifestyle*, several media contacted her - magazines, newspapers and television. In between, Carolyn completed her Masters Degree in Education course and has a newly published first book.

Lifestyle changes

What a year it's been! As 2009 speeds to an end, the *Lifestyle* team plays catch-up with some of our interviewees.

With her supportive hubby and TCM practitioner dad's care, Carolyn's health is also slowly improving. When contacted recently, she sounded good over the phone. With no slur, her voice was chirpy, and her speech rapid - punctuated with laughter.

At our request, Carolyn emailed us an update.

As I write this, I am anticipating the **launch of my very own book**, *Making Pink Lemonade* on November 15, 2009.

It never fails to amaze me when I think about how far I have come since this time last year. Then, I had almost sworn off writing altogether because I had lost so much confidence in myself. Today, I am on the brink of becoming a published author.

When I look back on the past several months, I see the *Lifestyle* feature as the first step of the journey that has brought me to where I am today. It is the turning point that opened up a whole new world of possibilities for me.

In April 2009, I handed in my last assignment for the Master of Education course at NIE. Sometime later, I found the wonderful folks of Project Pink Lemonade, a fabulous printer and lots of encouragement to pen my own book. **In July 2009, I attended the convocation ceremony at NIE/NTU where I was awarded a degree for successful completion of the course.**

William's life has largely remained unchanged. He is as shy as ever but has participated in media coverage when requested because he knows it will really help me along. **He still makes me laugh at the most inane jokes and we still behave like giggly teenagers heady on love sometimes.** In the months when I was writing, he put up with a shrewish wife without complaint and he is now happily watching Spider-Man (for the umpteenth time) on DVD.

Last month, William told me wistfully, "I miss going shopping hand-in-hand with you." So I guess that's my next goal - to bid farewell to the wheelchair for good. It won't be easy but hey, if I'm going to dream, I might as well dream BIG!