

Mums & Dads,

Struck Down But Not Out - The day "laughter" arrived

You may have heard about her story - A freak lightning accident while she was windsurfing at East Coast on 10 September 2006 changed Carolyn Lim's life forever. The impact of the lightning strike rendered her comatose for six weeks. When she awoke, she was horrified to discover her hair had been shaved off for neurosurgery, her right eye had skewed to the middle of her face, her right and left leg were limp, her speech had become slurred and there were burnt marks on her body.

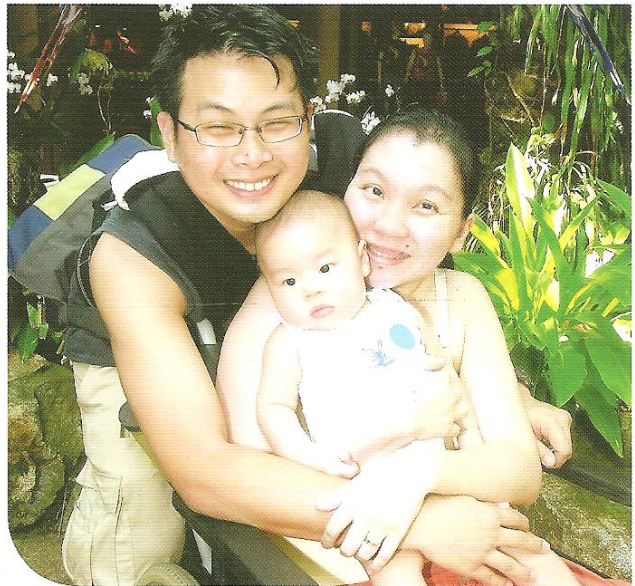
Despite the physical and emotional setbacks, Carolyn was determined to pull through this adversity. With the support and love of her family and then, boyfriend William Ng (who's now her husband), she embarked on a slow but determined journey of recovery, learning how to walk, speak and write again.

Today, Carolyn is happily married with a bonnie babe, with a master's degree under her belt and is an author to "Making Pink Lemonade" a book detailing her ordeal. All these milestones were achieved after that fateful day. But yet, if you were to ask her what could be her greatest joy, without a doubt, she would say it's Isaac, her firstborn.

Isaac, which means 'laughter', was born at Thomson Medical Centre under the care of Dr Jeanette Chen, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. Dr Chen recalls the complications surrounding Carolyn's pregnancy prior to her delivery. *"The main complication that was anticipated was that of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in view of mobility difficulty as a result of her accident. She moved around with the aid of a wheelchair. In pregnancy, the risk of DVT increases and in her case because of some difficulty with ambulation, the risk was higher. Carolyn was encouraged to ambulate more, exercise and do physiotherapy to decrease this risk. Also in view of her condition, she was advised to have a caesarean section for the delivery."*

Through accounts of Dr Chen, Celebrating Life was told how Carolyn stayed positive throughout. Though having an impairment with mobility and later difficulty in walking as she progressed to full term, she was always positive in her thinking, reading up on her condition and asking appropriate questions concerning her condition. Her husband was there to support her, helping her to ambulate and encouraging her. What was most impressive about the couple was, *"the love between them. It was their love for each other and their ability to cope so well together. Even when the baby arrived, they coped beautifully, never needing extra help to manage."*

Being first-time parents, this year's Mother's Day (8 May) and Father's Day (19 June) would be a particularly special one for William and Carolyn. For both, the celebration of parenthood is all the more poignant and joyous with the presence of their own parents, who have become grandparents.



At the zoo with daddy & mummy

Being struck by lightning may have been a day that Carolyn will never forget, but now, there is a far greater and more promising day that Carolyn and William will always remember. The day that "laughter" arrived through Isaac.

Dr Jeanette Chen with Carolyn's family



Bonnie baby!



At home with daddy

Dr Jeanette Chen, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, runs Jeanette Chen Women's Clinic located at 339 Thomson Road #05-02A Thomson Medical Centre, Singapore 307677.

**For an appointment,
please call
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