

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Fellowship

OF CHRISTIANS IN THE STAR

Rudy Hartono to speak at anniversary

A note from our defacto pastor Chua

Greetings and Blessings in the Name of Jesus! If you've seen our last newsletter, you'd know that we were thinking of getting badminton legend Rudy Hartono to speak at our 2nd anniversary dinner.

Well, good news, the man who won the All-England singles title a record eight times has just confirmed he will grace our function! He may no longer be world champion, but he is now

championing the cause of God's Kingdom.

And the organising committee has fixed the date of the dinner – **Wednesday 20 October 2004** at Eastin Hotel. The venue has been booked.

Mark the date on your calendar, make sure you're free to attend – it's just FOUR

MONTHS away!

And like our 1st anniversary dinner last year, we're asking you to buy a table (the price is still being

negotiated but it should be about RM500) or a seat for yourself and your spouse/colleague, or several seats, if you are able.

Remember: we want to invite as many of our non-Christian colleagues as possible.

And like last year, there will be about 12 tables, with room for expansion if the response is good. I hope you all will be able to make an early commitment. Cherry Wong and Coreen Liew will coordinate bookings and seating arrangements – they did a very good job last time.

We will need volunteers: an emcee, song leader and backup singers and musicians, ushers, someone to "look after" Bapa Rudy (arrangements are being made to put him up at Eastin Hotel for a night; he's scheduled to arrive at noon on the day of the dinner) and IDEAS (good ideas are welcome but we really need God ideas).

We need to get started early, so volunteers will be very welcomed! Meantime, I hope all of you can start bringing the dinner function before God in prayer. It is by His Spirit, not by our might, that His things can be accomplished!

The Lord is always by our side

Editor's note: Shereen Shoon works in the advertising department. When she first discovered that she had breast cancer, she was at a loss. But thanks to the support of family and friends, including many in The Star, she survived the journey. Here is her story.

Hi, I am Shereen. I am a single parent and I have two sons and a daughter. All my three children are still at school. I first discovered the lump in my breast while I was relaxing on the sofa watching TV.

When my doctor confirmed that I had breast cancer, the thought of dying immediately crossed my mind. I thought my time was up and when I told my children about it, they were confused and shocked. It reminded me how much they looked to me as the pillar of strength in the family.

I was admitted into hospital for a mastectomy and thus began my journey into the world of oncology.



I had to make many trips to the hospital for my treatment. Twelve days after my mastectomy, I started on chemotherapy and radiotherapy. All in all, I would undergo six rounds of chemotherapy and 25 rounds of radiotherapy. My oncologist complained that my

veins were too fine.

I prayed a lot throughout this time. I believe it was my trust in our Lord that pulled me through. Despite the treatment, I remained calm and my positive attitude certainly gave me the strength to fight.

Like other cancer patients, it was often the effects of the treatment that caused me great frustration.

There were times when I could not eat or drink. I was throwing out constantly. I was too weak to do anything for myself.

It was a painful period of ups and downs for my family.

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Vision of Jesus changes Peter's life

By J. Sebastian in Penang

September 8, 2003 – that is the date that would be etched in Peter Lechumanan's memory forever. It was the day Peter saw a vision of the Lord and became a follower.

That vision caused a seismic change in Peter. On that day Peter, 50, spontaneously accepted the Lord to the joy of his wife Sornalagha, his son Deshiv, 20, and daughter Navitha, 14.

Eight months before his conversion, Peter, who had a nagging pain in his right knee from a old injury, had received a visitation. He was lying in his bed grimacing in pain when he felt and saw someone massaging his knee. He then heard a "crack". His injury soon disappeared.



Then I heard a voice telling me to look up and as I lifted my head, I caught a vision of the Lord. I cried and soon after I accepted the Lord

heard someone telling me to get up and to throw away my cigarettes and go to the camp which I obliged. I followed my family to the camp. At the camp, they prayed and sang but they were asking me to accept the Lord but I declined.

"Then I heard a voice telling me to look up and as I lifted my head, I caught a vision of the Lord. I cried and soon after I accepted the Lord.

Peter, a machinist working as an assistant chief graphic technician in the CTP section at *The Star's* Northern Hub, has since Sept 8 given up smoking and drinking. He had smoked for 32 years and tiddled for 29 years.

Peter was the nickname given to him since 1971 by colleagues. And it was at the 11th Star CF fellowship meeting on May 19 that he shared his story.

"On Sept 7, 2003, I went to a temple event at which I was the co-organising chairman. I returned home late and slept. My wife and my daughter reminded me about a church camp in Ipoh and I told them to go ahead without me. My daughter started crying but I ignored her.

"At around 5am, I



Peter testifying on the miracle in his life

"Eight months earlier, I was lying in bed experiencing excruciating pain in my right knee from an old injury. I even cried out to my wife to 'chop off' my leg as the pain was unbearable. My wife and a few other Christians prayed over the knee. Then I felt and saw a figure massaging my knee and I heard a "crack".

"The pain and injury then left me. Today, I do not smoke any more. Nor do I drink. I also do not feel any pain in my knee anymore."

Peter is now with the Bethany Assembly of God church. His wife and children had accepted the Lord long ago.

From Page One... Shereen's testimony

I wanted so much to be able to survive and to watch the children grow up.

I prayed fervently to God and asked Him to give me more time.

Mum and dad were a great help in taking care of the domestic chores. They never once complained about the extra work.

After receiving my first dose of chemotherapy, I watched my hair fall out, sometimes in clumps, and I felt really traumatic. I wondered how I was going to cope in society with my bald patches.

But what kept me going was the love, care and faith of my family and friends. The support from colleagues, bosses and church members was tremendous.

I have also recently joined the Breast Cancer Welfare Association, which is a non-government body. Over here, all the survivors share their experiences and we have many activities to keep us occupied.

I also do my part to counsel other patients. I encourage them to think positive all the time. Now I still go for regular check-ups and I am on medication for the next five years. Praise the Lord.

Watch that tongue!

A contribution by Chua: Here's something for all of us to chew on.

James writes in Chapter 3:

5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.

empty

*i sit in cool
middle-class comfort
praying for the
oppressed and hurt*

*i see the pain
On the mother's face
but a spastic child
is too hard to embrace*

*i smell the stench
from the patient's sheets
hold my breath and
beat a quick retreat
i serve with zeal
in the church committee
attending meetings
and brewing coffee*

*i sign my cheques
for worldwide missions
earnest offerings
to salve my conscience*

*i practise my faith
religiously
so why is it that
my heart feels empty?
— angeline lim*



And so, consider:

*The Most Powerful Force
My name is gossip,
I have no respect for justice.
I maim without killing,
Break hearts and ruin lives.
I am cunning, malicious, and Gather strength
with age.
The more I am quoted,
The more I am believed.
I flourish at every level of society.
My victims are helpless.
They cannot protect themselves
Against me, because I have
No name and no face.
To track me down is impossible.
The harder you try,
The more elusive I become.
I am nobody's friend.
Once I tarnish a reputation,
It is never the same.
I topple governments and wreck marriages.
I ruin careers and cause
Sleepless nights and heartaches.
I spawn suspicion and generate grief.
I make innocent people cry on their pillows.
I am called GOSSIP
...Office gossip, shop gossip,
Party gossip, telephone gossip,
Email gossip, SMS gossip.
I make headlines and headaches.
Remember me, before you repeat a story.
Ask yourself: is it true?
Is it fair?
Is it necessary?
If not, do not repeat.
Keep it quiet!
GREAT minds discuss ideas.
AVERAGE minds discuss events.
SHALLOW minds discuss people.*

*The most powerful force in the world is ...
GOSSIP!*



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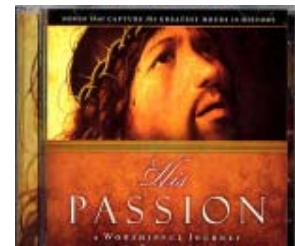
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Other newly-arrived titles include **WOF Irrepressible Hope** (Women of Faith); **Best of Sheila Walsh**; **Make It Glorious** (Tommy Walker); **Top 25 Modern Worship Songs**; **24-7** (Point of Grace); **Cry Holy** (Sonic Food); **Praise Jams** (Club J); **Almost There** (Mercy Me); **I Can Only Imagine Lullabies** (Various artists); **Our Sunday Best** (Red and Green).