

It is said from a new seed, a new beginning. For the people on this page and the next, the new year marks a fresh start and a new life – literally so, for some.

Four bundles of joy were delivered at the stroke of midnight, in three hospitals, swiftly followed by a half-dozen more

BORN 01-01-11  
00:00 HOURS

within minutes of the new year. The bumper crop of newborns – some expected, others coming ahead of schedule – kept their parents and labour ward staff busy through the wee hours of the morning. **Chua Hian Hou** talks to some of the proud parents of 2011's first babies.



ST PHOTO: CAROLINE CHIA

## And then there was light

Financial consultant Alvin Lim and his wife Lynn Kwek, an office manager, had been psyching their first-born even before he was born.

Jan 1, 2011, they "told" their then-unborn child, whom they named Lucius, was a great time to come into the world.

Lucius – Latin for "light" – was clearly paying attention, because

that was when he made his appearance, right on schedule at midnight.

In the run-up to the birth, Madam Kwek, 26, started pushing only 12 minutes before his arrival at Mount Alvernia Hospital.

"I remember reading that it took 20, 30 minutes at least, to push a baby out," said 36-year-old Mr Lim.

His only regret about the special event: not taking his notebook computer along to the hospital.

He had wanted to upload the pictures he took onto social networking site Facebook, to share the joy with family and friends.

"I take my notebook with me everywhere, every day. Except that day, and it had to happen," he said.



ST PHOTO: CAROLINE CHIA

## Drawing a blank with 4-D

Baby Damien was due on Jan 3, but all signs pointed to an early arrival.

That's why the Foongs were at Mount Alvernia's delivery ward as the new year beckoned.

Mr Donovan Foong, 40, and his wife Zou Ling, 30, a housewife, have an older child, three-year-old Rachel. "We were relaxed because we already knew what to do," said Mr Foong, an IT manager.

When signs pointed to Damien's early arrival, the couple hoped he would hold off his entry into the world till the new year. This, said Mr Foong, would hopefully give Damien a headstart in the school cohort.

That Damien was born on the dot at midnight was, he said, a "pleasant surprise".

When his sister asked about the

time of Damien's birth so she could buy 4-D lottery tickets, he told her that knowing the number would do her no good – because tickets with four zeros are not available.

The Foongs said they might consider having another child.

"But we probably won't be able to make Nov 11," said Mr Foong, referring to the other hot date of the year, 11/11.