

# REMEMBERING RICHARD VELU

## MY MENTOR



**R**ICHARD Velu, Rocky Velu or Rockford Velu as I used to call him, was not just a friend to me. He was also a mentor. I made his

acquaintance when I became a sportswriter in 1978. From then on, Velu, as a senior, provided me with valuable hints on how to write better. He handed me one day a booklet on this subject, which his then-boss Tony Francis had given him. I still have it.

We would go on to work later together on the 1989 Kuala Sea Games at GT Consultants. Even there, his mentoring continued.

I was shocked when he told me of his illness, but in his quiet way, he dealt with it. I believe his

faith in Jesus gave him the strength for this.

I visited him a couple of weeks before he passed on. He recognised me, and for that, I am grateful. I prayed for him. As I was leaving, he reached out and grasped my hand tightly as if to say “goodbye” for the last time.

It brought tears to my eyes. As a Christian, I know we will meet again. Richard Velu is no more, but the memories of him will live on.

**BY A SUBRAMANIAN**