

Sweet spot

Max Lucado

Watoto Choir to tour Perth

Angela focused on City to Surf

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S NEWSPAPER FOR CHRISTIANS

Miracle in mining town

Alcohol ad ban sought

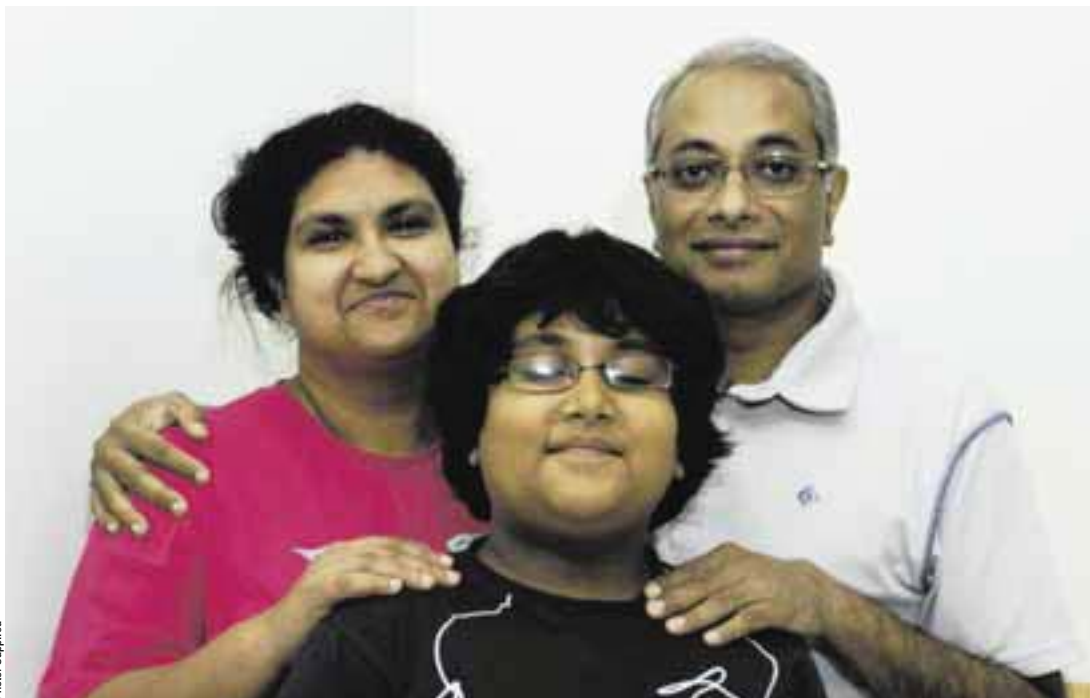


Photo: Supplied

► "My wife held my hand and prayed 'Lord, he is only 39, I am only 38 and we have a ten year old boy [Michael], I need a miracle'. As soon as she said this it was as though someone had breathed life into me again and my heartbeat came back," Dr Sean George said.

Over six months have passed since Dr Sean George, a specialist from Kalgoorlie Hospital returned from the dead to amaze colleagues who battled for almost 55 minutes to revive his lifeless heart.

The story began on 24 October last year. As Dr George returned from a clinic session in Esperance he felt minor chest pains which he assumed to be a gastric problem.

"I decided to stop the car and as I got out still feeling the discomfort, I called my wife, also a doctor to let her know what was happening," Dr George said. "She suggested driving straight home to Kalgoorlie. I told her I would decide on the way and started on again."

As he did so, he felt God telling him to head to a clinic in Kambalda where he used an ECG to diagnose a heart attack.

"The pain was getting worse and after a short while my heart completely stopped beating. Not only did I have a heart attack but I went into cardiac arrest."

A team of doctors and nurses used over 4,000 chest compressions and gave him 13 electrical shocks but neither his heart nor lungs responded. He was clinically dead.

55 minutes into the resuscitation his wife arrived and was told she had two minutes to say goodbye.

"She held my hand and prayed 'Lord, he is only 39, I am only 38

and we have a ten year old boy, I need a miracle'. As soon as she said this it was as though someone had breathed life into me again and my heartbeat came back."

Dr George was then flown by Royal Flying Doctor to Royal Perth Hospital where doctors carried out an emergency procedure to clear a severely blocked artery on the right side of his heart. He was discharged two weeks later and returned to full time work after three months of steady recovery.

"The experience has made me more conscious that we are only pilgrims on this earth and we need to focus on what lies ahead in eternity. Physically I feel great

and emotionally very strong and it has definitely brought me closer to God."

"I believe that this is a miracle because after being dead for 55 minutes the survival of such people is very short if at all. Even if the patient does survive they are left with very little brain function if any."

"I don't think there are any documented cases of patients who were clinically dead for so long, have come back to life with their memory perfectly intact and neurologically no deficits at all. This is only something that God can do because medically it is impossible."

Dr Sean George and his family attend Kalgoorlie Baptist Church.

Western Australia's Barnett Government has linked increasing rates of risky drinking among teenagers to advertisements and wants a national ban on alcohol advertising on television up to 9.30pm.

"This is a common sense approach to tackling binge drinking in our nation," Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) State Director, Michelle Pearse said.

"The purpose of alcohol advertising is to encourage people to consume their product, and by allowing young people to be encouraged to consume alcohol can only add to the binge drinking problem."

"Placing alcohol advertising in a later timeslot and not allowing alcohol advertising to be played during daytime sport is a step in the right direction, although still more needs to be done."

ACL would also like to see the banning of all alcohol advertisements in cinemas, except on movies with an R18+ classification.

"The Cineads website says that worldwide independent research claims that cinema advertising produces recall up to five times greater than television commercials."

"Allowing young people to be confronted with such a strong pro-alcohol message in the cinema encourages more alcohol consumption and confuses the anti-binge drinking message."

New South Wales Health Minister John Della Bosca expressed interest in the proposal from WA's Mental Health Minister Graham Jacobs who will lobby the Federal Government for the ban. The proposal has been placed on an upcoming agenda of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy to be attended by Health Minister Nicola Roxon and Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

Alcohol advertisements can currently be shown on television after 8.30pm but earlier if they are during the coverage of sports events.