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Miracle in mining town

On the 24th of October 2008, Dr Sean George, a consultant physician in a West Australian hospital, returned from the dead to amaze colleagues who had battled for an hour to revive his lifeless heart.

Five days after running free medical clinics in Vanuatu, Dr George was returning from a clinic session on the south coast of Australia with his intern when he felt minor chest pains and unusually hot.

"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 recalls. "She suggested driving straight home to Kalgoorlie."

As he did so, he felt divinely directed to enter the clinic in Kambalda, 50kms short of Kalgoorlie, where he used an electro-cardiogram (ECG) to diagnose a heart attack and receive the few drugs they had there.

"The pain was getting worse and 11 minutes after the ECG my heart completely stopped beating. Not

only did I have a heart attack but I went into cardiac arrest."

For the next 60 minutes, 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. After one hour and 10 minutes, Sean was declared dead.

Ten minutes later, his wife Sherry arrived from Kalgoorlie and was told she could go in and say goodbye.

Dr George continues: "Being a doctor herself, Sherry knew that medical science had proven that if the blood supply to the brain was cut off for over three minutes the brain would begin to die, and in 20 minutes the brain would be completely dead. But as she and I had trusted in Jesus Christ as Almighty God and Saviour, she decided to humbly ask



MEDICALLY IMPOSSIBLE: Dr George in full health after being clinically dead for over an hour.

Him to intervene.

"Holding my hand, she prayed, 'Lord Jesus, 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."

Four hours later, Dr George was flown to Royal Perth hospital where doctors carried out an emergency procedure to clear a severely blocked artery on the right side of his heart.

"The doctors thought I would not survive, and even if I did I would be completely brain dead on a ventilator. In Royal Perth ICU, I had kidney and liver failure and was still in a deep coma."

Three days later, on Sunday, against all odds, Sean opened his eyes. The next day, he was moving his hands and legs.

On Wednesday, he was fully conscious and off the ventilator, and his memory and brain were fully functional. Two weeks later he was discharged, and returned to full-time work after three months of steady recovery.

As he reflects on these miraculous events, Dr George believes God wanted to teach him some important truths.

It has proved to him that Jesus really is Creator God and Sustainer of life and that He hears and responds to the humble prayers of His servants. He also now understands that eternity is only a breath away.

The experience has definitely grown my relationship with God," says Dr George.

"I am now more conscious that we are only pilgrims on this earth, that this life is only for a short time, so we need to focus on what lies ahead in eternity."

• TO READ MORE OF SEAN'S STORY
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History or hoax?

ONE SCIENTIST'S JOURNEY

Why would a scientist with an essentially non-religious upbringing and education become a staunch supporter of the accuracy of the Biblical Genesis account?

Author of a new book tackling Richard Dawkins' latest treatise on evolution, Dr Jonathan Sarfati simply responds: "There was no single reason, but many pieces of evidence that accumulated into an overwhelming case."

Before gaining his Ph.D. in Spectroscopy (Physical Chemistry), Jonathan was an undergraduate in chemistry at Victoria University in New Zealand when some Christians befriended him. This caused him to investigate the claims of Christianity, which he says he found logical and entirely defensible.

"In my introductory geology class," Jonathan



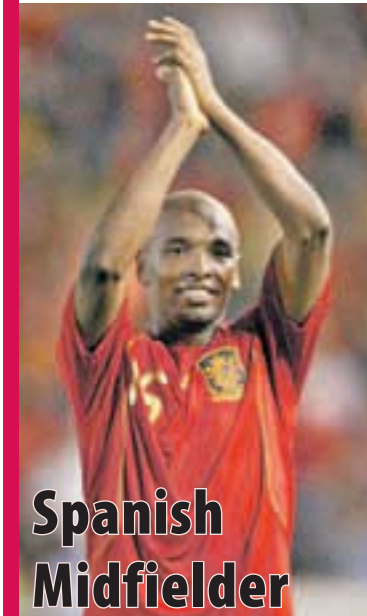
Jonathan Sarfati

begins, "the Professor, a paleontologist, said explicitly, 'The fossil record does not support Darwinian evolution! Rather, it seems to support a series of divine creations,' then explained away the problem, or it certainly seemed at the time to be special pleading. Later studies have confirmed that the links are still missing, just as Darwin realized in his day."

In his organic chemistry classes, Jonathan found enormous problems for theories of the origin of life from non-living chemicals (chemical evolution or abiogenesis).

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Mountain climbed step by step

Author Stacey Charbachi hopes her cancer experiences will help others facing difficult times

It may not be surprising that fighting cancer was a harrowing experience for Queensland author Stacey Charbachi, but what is unusual is that despite openly publishing her journey she does not want to read her book again.

"It's time to move on for me," says Stacey. "It's too painful to relive. There is also the embarrassment of knowing I am so emotionally and physically exposed. There are times when I've thought, 'Did

I really put that out there for the entire world to read?'"

In December, 2006, 28-year-old Stacey, heavily pregnant with her second child, remembers feeling exhausted. She put it down to the pregnancy and caring for her active two-year-old daughter, Lidiah and when a lump later appeared in her right breast, she just put it down to hormone changes.

Five weeks after Samuel's birth she decided to see if she "needed something to stop the milk from clogging up in the ducts" and was thrown into an emotional roller-coaster of a breast cancer diagnosis, surgery, chemotherapy and despair as she and her loved ones faced an uncertain future.

She began writing what has become her book *Climbing Mountains* to release her raw emotions, to debrief and "gear up for the week ahead."

"I found it invaluable for my soul," says Stacey. "Then after several weeks I realised that if I wrote my journey I would have a story to share."

She writes honestly about her fear of dying, of leaving her husband behind, of the physical pain, and her grief, anger, devastation, and the hope in Jesus Christ that



Stacy and Roby Charbachi with children Sam and Lidiah

enabled her to get through each day.

This hope was found following her first traumatic experience; her parents' divorce at age 10 that led to feelings of worthlessness and emptiness.

"My father and older brother moved to the Gold Coast and I stayed in Brisbane with Mum," Stacey recalls. "This was a very traumatic time for me and it affected

me personally later in life."

In her twenties, Stacey recalls she went "from job to job and course to course, unable to really complete anything."

"I had always been a deep thinker, a very inwardly emotional person. Around this time I started feeling increasingly lonely in a busy, powerful, success-driven world where I wasn't 'achieving'

much."

She tried to brush these feelings aside by frequenting popular night spots and having a number of shallow relationships, until she was caught in an abusive relationship and was too scared to leave for four years.

"The relationship only worsened my already damaged confidence," she says. "I started to spiral down a tunnel of depression fast."

"After I escaped the torment of the relationship I tried to use drinking and partying as a crutch and began to rely on them for healing and freedom. Alcohol and recreational drugs were the only things that really made me able to cope with the pressures of life during this time."

"After the high wore off, the feelings of worthlessness and loneliness remained."

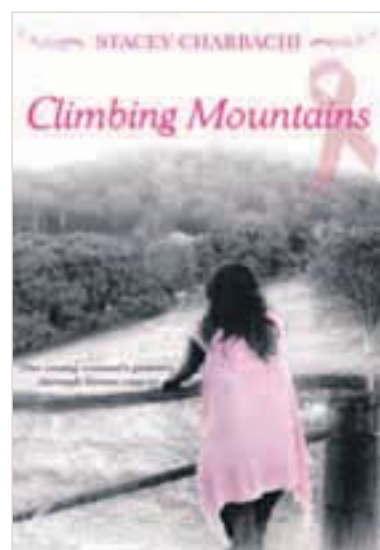
By the time she had turned 25, Stacey was ready for some intervention in her life.

"My Dad introduced me to Mark Reid, a church pastor, and his wife Jenny, both of whom seemed to understand where I was coming from and told me that there was hope for my situation," Stacey recalls.

"Mark and Jenny showered me with love and acceptance; they never came across as people better than me. They saw through my hard exterior and knew there was young girl inside who was screaming for help."

Stacey explains that she had grown up in traditional religion, a heritage that she is very grateful for, but had not grasped the meaning of having a personal relationship with God.

"As I attended Mark and Jenny's church, I began to understand that Jesus, God the Son, took the punishment for my sin on the cross and that I could have the Holy Spirit's enabling as a believer to walk in obedience to Jesus' commands," Stacey explains.



Stacey's book

'Medically impossible' recovery

Dr Sean George was just 17 when he left his parent's home in Kuwait to finish high school with his grandparents in Kerala, South India to finish high school.

As he observed the devout faith of his grandfather T.K Thomas, a full-time evangelist, Sean began to admire his hope of eternal life.

"After his death at age 74, I thought about life and began seeking God for myself, then in 1985, I trusted in Jesus Christ as the one true God and my Saviour from the penalty of sin."

The following year, Sean started medical school in Manipal, South India, but forgot about God for a while due to alcohol, marijuana and lustful relationships with girls. However, none of these temptations were as satisfying as a clear conscience before God.

"After listening to a friend's audio cassette called 'Youth and the End', the Lord opened my eyes and I gave up smoking, alcohol, drugs and rededicated my life to Jesus. I still struggled with lustful desires, but I believed there is victory in Jesus' name, and as I surrendered myself to Him daily these desires faded."

After marrying fellow Christian medical student Sherry, and joining the teaching staff at Manipal hospital with his wife, Sean says God put a burden in his heart for lost souls at a missionary conference in 1996.

In 2006, the George family settled in Kalgoorlie, even though Sherry had to give up her career as an ENT Surgeon.

We have no regrets - the Kalgoorlie community really needed help as there were no other physicians willing to work here."

In 2008, Sean became involved in voluntary medical and mission work in Islands of Vanuatu.

"Only five days after the first mission trip in October 2008, I had a cardiac arrest and God



The George family holidaying in India

miraculously brought me back to life." [See story on page 1]

In early 2009, the George family returned to Vanuatu for more voluntary clinical and mission work, a trip that saw many people respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.

"Every morning I thank Jesus Christ for yet another day," Sean says. "I am alive and well today only because of Him. My life has changed forever, and I realise how valuable each day is."

Reviewing the facts of his case, both as a professional doctor and personal survivor, Dr George is convinced that only God could have brought him back to complete health.

"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 something that only God can do, because medically it is impossible."

There are other important conclusions that Dr George says are clearly evident from his experience.

"If you ever wondered if the miracles in the Bible actually happened, I am living proof that it did. If you have any doubts if this story is true, I can assure you it's all well documented," he affirms. "I encourage you to stop and think, how valuable is your life? There is no need to journey alone, trust Jesus, that He took the penalty for your sin, and ask Him into your life, and He will transform your heart to desire His perfect plan and use you for His glory."

"Jesus Christ loves you so much that He died for your sins on the cross. Will you trust Him as your Saviour today? God Bless you." ■