



**Raising faith.** John Wesley's report about Mr. Meyrick, with which this article opened, was not unique. In October 2006, Jeff Markin was pronounced dead by cardiologist Chauncey Crandall. The emergency room team had been unable to resuscitate Markin for 40 minutes. As Dr. Crandall (a Christian physician) returned to his rounds, he felt led to return and pray for Markin to be raised. After six minutes with no oxygen, irreparable brain damage sets in; Markin had been flatlined for some forty minutes, and his extremities had already turned black. Nevertheless, at Crandall's request, his colleague shocked Markin one more time. Immediately Markin's heartbeat returned to normal, and he soon recovered fully. Crandall later participated in Markin's baptism as a new believer.

Unexpectedly, when I began inquiring among my own circle of friends and coworkers, I found that 10 of them had eyewitness accounts of people considered dead being resuscitated through prayer. Even allowing for modern questions about the line between life and death, that figure seems too high for coincidence. Moreover, no one is deemed merely psychosomatically dead.

In December 1985, Timothy Olonade was one of three people killed in a traffic accident at about 5 p.m. near Kaduna in north-west Nigeria. Olonade was pronounced dead on the scene. To everyone's astonishment, he was discovered alive nine hours later in the mortuary. He is now a leader in Nigerian missions. Another friend, Leo Bawa, now a PhD student, was ministering in a village when neighbors brought the lifeless body of their



*(Left) Leo Bawa with one of his goats. (Above) Albert and Julienne Bissoussou*

boy and asked Leo to pray. After a couple hours of prayer, Leo handed their son back to them alive.

In my wife's country of Congo-Brazzaville, family friend Albert Bissoussou was working as a school inspector in a northern town when non-Christians brought him a girl who had died eight hours earlier. Their more traditional religious attempts to revive her, including smearing sacrificial blood in her eyes and nose and mouth, had failed. Papa Bissoussou urged them to turn to the true God, then took the child to where he normally prayed. After half an hour, he returned her to her family alive. People in the village were so impressed that the next time a child died, they came looking for Papa Bissoussou. He was away on business, but his wife Julienne prayed and that child also revived immediately.

Astonishing as these reports were to me, the account that affected my own perspective most significantly was one shared with me by Antoinette Malombé. When her daughter Thérèse was two, Thérèse became unconscious from a snakebite and apparently stopped breathing — for about three hours. When a minister friend prayed for Thérèse, she began breathing again and recovered fully by the next day. As in the other accounts, Thérèse suffered no brain damage; she later finished seminary and is now a pastor in Congo. This account commanded my attention in a special way because Thérèse is my wife's sister.

**Precipitating events.** Like raisings, stilling of storms