

'Dead' man surprises family by walking into his own funeral - while identical looking murder victim lies in casket

- Gilberto Araujo had not been seen by his family for four months when police called to say he had been killed on Sunday
- Brother, Jose Marcos Araujo, mistakenly identified similar looking Genivaldo Santos Gama and took body home for wake on Tuesday
- The 41-year-old car washer from Alagoinhas, Brazil was told the family believed him dead by a friend in the street

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

Published: 24 October 2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2222241/Man-alive-funeral-familys-shock-identical-looking-murder-victim-lies-casket.html>

A family gathering to mourn the death of a relative were shocked to tears and fainting when the deceased man in question pitched up at his own funeral on Tuesday.

In a bizarre case of mistaken identity, news of car washer Gilberto Araujo's murder had been relayed to the family by local police in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Sunday.

Shortly after, when the wayward vagabond's brother was called into the morgue to make a positive identification on the body, he saw his brother lying on the table and took the corpse home so his family could hold a wake.



Family and friends of Gilberto Araujo (right) had spent the night grieving beside his open coffin. But the body they were weeping over was that of a workmate (left) who relatives say looked uncannily like 41-year-old Gilberto

Jose Marcos Araujo was so fooled by the likeness of fellow car washer Genivaldo Santos Gama to his brother Gilberto, that he mistakenly confirmed the body to be his sibling's.

Police inspector Roberto Lima said that Jose Marcos took the body to his mother's Alagoinhas home where a wake was held on Tuesday

'The confusion started when news started circulating that a car washer had been shot dead,' Jose Marcos' wife, Ana Paula, told the UOL Internet news portal.

'Police called my husband and told him that his brother had been killed and his body was at the morgue,' she explained.

Lima said the confusion was 'understandable.'

'The two men closely resembled each other and both worked as car washers,' Lima said adding that no further information on Gama was immediately available.

According to Gawker, the family had not seen or heard from Mr Araujo in the four months before the vexing case of mistaken identity.

A few hours before the Monday burial 'a friend of Gilberto's saw him walking down the street and told him that his family was mourning him,' he said.

'So he went to his mother's home to let everyone know he was very much alive.'

When Araujo showed up at his wake 'some people fainted and others were so scared they ran away. It was a big shock,' family friend Maria Menezes told the G1 online news site.

Gilberto's mother Marina Santana told reporters: 'I am overjoyed. What mother wouldn't be after being told that her son is dead and then sees him alive.'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2222241/Man-alive-funeral-family-shock-identical-looking-murder-victim-lies-casket.html#ixzz3Lv3xchmz>

"Dead" man found alive in body bag

Published Wednesday, Aug 27 2014, By [Kathryn Lewsey](#)

Source: <http://www.reveal.co.uk/real-life-stories/news/a592770/dead-man-found-alive-in-body-bag.html>

A man was left stunned when he visited the mortuary to visit his "dead" brother and found he was still alive.

Walterio Goncalves had gone to dress his brother Valdelucio's body in a burial suit when he saw the body bag was moving.

Doctors at Menandro de Farais General Hospital in Salvador, Brazil, had told the family that the 54-year-old had passed away the previous night.

But Walterio soon realised there had been a horrible mistake. He was quoted in the [Daily Mirror](#) saying: "I went crazy and shouted for the medical team so they could see what was happening. They checked him and confirmed that he was still alive."

Valdelucio, who is suffering from stomach cancer, first arrived at the hospital over the weekend after enduring breathing difficulties. Medics had called the family to inform that he had lost his battle after dying from respiratory and multiple organ failure.

Niece Patricia Cintra explained: "It was a shock to all of us when they called to tell us he had passed away. But we started making the funeral arrangements."

By Sunday, they had booked the funeral, purchased the coffin and even paid for his death notice in a newspaper.

Luckily for Valdelucio, his brother's visit meant someone realised that he was still very much alive.

The poor man was rushed back to the intensive care ward, but his family have since insisted on moving him to another hospital

Unable to speak, he wrote a note saying that he believes that Blessed Irma Dulce – a Brazilian saint known for her miraculous powers – has brought him back from the dead.

He said: "I saw death at my feet but my faith was so great that I was cured. Before Irma Dulce I said, 'do a miracle in me', and she heard my prayer."

Margarida Mirando, the director of the hospital, confirmed that bosses are investigating the situation.

28 February 2014 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-26388426>

Mississippi man found alive in body bag at funeral home

A Mississippi man has been found literally alive and kicking in a body bag at a funeral home after being declared dead.

Workers at Porter and Sons Funeral Home were preparing to embalm Walter Williams on Thursday when he moved.

A coroner pronounced the 78-year-old dead after finding no pulse when he was called to Mr Williams' home in the city of Lexington on the previous evening.

It is thought that his pacemaker may have temporarily stopped working.

Holmes County coroner Dexter Howard told the BBC he was called to Mr Williams' home by a hospice nurse, who said the man had passed away.

Mr Howard said he went through the "normal procedure" of checking for Mr Williams' vital signs, but found none.

'A miracle'

Mr Williams was taken to Porter and Sons Funeral Home and was being prepared for embalming when "we noticed there was some kicking and moving going on", Mr Howard said.

"He began to breathe," he added. "It was a miracle."

The farmer and school board employee was taken to a hospital for treatment, where Mr Howard visited him.

"He's still holding on," he said.



Walter Williams awoke inside Porter and Sons Funeral Home in Lexington, Mississippi

The coroner said Mr Williams' family were rejoicing and "just in a state of shock" after learning of his recovery.

Mr Howard said he had never seen anything like this in more than two decades as a coroner.

"It's an unusual case," he said. "I hope he keeps on keeping on."

Williams' nephew, Eddie Hester, told ABC affiliate WAPT: "I don't know how long he's going to be here.

"But I know he's back right now. That's all that matters."

Man found alive in a body bag pronounced dead 15 days later

Walter Williams, 78, who awoke in a funeral home after coroners mistakenly declared him dead, has died after heart struggles

A man who woke up in a body bag at a Mississippi funeral home in late February has been pronounced dead, again.

Walter Williams, 78, died on Thursday morning, just over two weeks since [a coroner last confirmed Williams's death](#). "I think he's gone this time," Williams' nephew Eddie Hester [told local news station 16 WAPT](#).

On 26 February, family members believed Williams had died and called a coroner, Dexter Howard, who incorrectly pronounced him dead.

The next day, workers at Porter and Sons funeral home in Lexington heard rustling coming from a body bag that contained Williams. They opened the bag to discover Williams, who was literally alive and kicking. He was then taken to a hospital.

Howard, who also confirmed Williams's "second" death, said he believed the error occurred because the man's pacemaker had stopped, then restarted. Funeral director Byron Porter also thought the pacemaker had stopped.

"We were getting ready transport him to the embalming table when we noticed he was moving, and had activities," [Porter told local news station WLBT](#).

Williams, a lifelong farmer and father of 11, had been in hospice care for congestive heart failure since February.

'Dead' man found alive in morgue

Thursday 26 Apr 2007

<http://metro.co.uk/2007/04/26/dead-man-found-alive-in-morgue-305472/>

A disabled man pronounced dead by medics in an Irish hospital was later found to be very much alive by staff from the morgue, the hospital said today.

The patient, in his 30s, had been in the Mater Hospital, Dublin for treatment on Easter Sunday when ward staff mistakenly certified his death.

But by the time the error was spotted his family had already been informed and were grieving for their loss.

A spokesman for the Mater confirmed what had happened and management have set up an inquiry to establish how medics made such a huge blunder.

It is understood ward staff declared the man dead on Easter Sunday and contacted morticians that a body had to be collected.

The man's family were contacted around the same time and informed of their supposed loss.

The error was then discovered when staff from the morgue arrived on the ward to take the body away and discovered that the patient was in fact alive.

It is understood that he has since been discharged from the hospital and has gone home.