The Curse – or Blessing – of the Zodiac Crab

Since he was a boy, Sam Rosenbalm has had a love/fear relationship with crabs. Born in July, his zodiac sign is cancer, represented by a crab. That might account for his love of the water and fascination with crab hunting as a young boy on the beaches of Whidbey Island, Washington.

In 2017, the dark side of the sign became part of Sam’s life as he was diagnosed with terminal cancer while working for Microsoft in Singapore. We’re sharing some of his random thoughts about the journey he’s on and how he and his family continue to rise to the challenge of living with – not being controlled by – cancer. You can hear more of his story on the Powered By The People podcast with Sam.

“You know when you hear a song lyric that just sticks with you? For me, a line from ‘Closing Time’ by Semisonic hits home: “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” When you look at a fall leaf or a butterfly laying eggs, it foreshadows death while preparing for new life.

Singapore brought some of the darkest times in my life, but it also provided a rich cultural opportunity for my family to explore diversity across 16 countries and make lifelong friendships on the other side of the world. I believe in working to live, not living to work and find the most joy in life spending time with my wife, Natalie, and our five #superawesomeunique children. (They could be a full dev crew!)

Being on the beach, in the water, or on a boat is our happy place. My love of the ocean comes from growing up in a Navy family and living on coasts around the world. When the COVID lockdown prevented my daughter from hanging out with her friends, she decided to adopt Benny, a Ball Python. The whole family loves him and had a bit of a scare when he slithered out of his cage and got stuck behind the toilet. Imagine waking up to that in the morning! Besides my family, my faith is my anchor in life, giving me the strength and perspective to approach each additional day on Earth as a gift.”

“When times get tough, our family likes to shift focus off our own challenges by looking for opportunities to serve others. For some ideas on how you can do the same by helping those who are dealing with cancer, please check out the Powered By The People podcast. And for those of you also living with cancer or another chronic illness, I hope you never give up – and let others in to help.

Some organizations and sites you might want to check out:

- [Thyca.org](http://Thyca.org)
- [(20+) Medullary Thyroid Cancer - MTC | Facebook](http://(20+) Medullary Thyroid Cancer - MTC | Facebook) (For anyone with or supporting someone with MTC)
- My Facebook group/blog [(20+) Searching for Light | Facebook](http://[(20+) Searching for Light | Facebook)