



NEW LIFE

*New Smile*

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*By helping this one patient, my team and I were also able to indirectly help thousands across the globe.*

New Life, New Smile can mean something different, depending to whom you are speaking. Those of us in the world of Physiologic Neuromuscular Dentistry are fortunate to have the tools available to help our patients achieve a new life along with a new smile. I would like to share one of my patient's journeys and how my team and I were able to bring about change in this man's life. I would also like to share how this change goes beyond helping just this one patient.

I first met Dave in August of 2014. He was a broken man. He presented with jaw popping, debilitating headaches, and extreme dizziness that was keeping him from completing simple daily tasks. Dave kept working, despite these symptoms. He was also taking medications prescribed to help relax his muscles, but these did not touch his symptoms. In fact, the medications were making him feel more dizzy, foggy, and unable to concentrate.

Dave searched far and wide for answers. He sought care from a nationally renowned expert on TMJ disorders that had a satellite office in our town. After several months of treatment with this expert with no resolution of symptoms, Dave knew there had to be a better answer. He knew someone had to provide more than just a splint, which is all this expert had done for him. He and his wife spent hours of research on the internet, which led them to discover Neuromuscular Dentistry and our office.

Upon my initial examination, I knew I could help Dave get out of pain as he displayed all the classic signs and symptoms of TMJ disorder. He had multiple posterior restorations, ground down and cracking teeth, multiple muscle trigger points- the list goes on. I talked about what our office could provide through a physiologic approach and he signed up for phase I therapy immediately. He was especially intrigued by the fact that our fixed orthotic would be worn 24 hours a day. This really made sense to Dave since treatment with other providers started with splint therapy, then dictated that splint usage be tapered off. While these splints only provided some resolution of symptoms, every time he

tapered down his use of them, his symptoms would return. It made sense to Dave that we would work to find a balanced, physiologic relationship of his lower jaw to his upper jaw. Utilizing orthotic therapy, we would find out if I could solve his symptoms before anything permanent would be done. Dave and I set the following goals for phase I: eliminate the jaw popping, minimize the headaches and dizziness, and most importantly for him- get off the medication!



DAVE BEFORE



DAVE AFTER

During the phase I process, I was able to spend a lot of time getting to know my patient better. Dave, along with his brothers, is a co-founder and spokesperson of Convoy of Hope. Convoy of Hope is a faith-based, non-profit organization that has helped more than 70 million people throughout the world by sharing food, water, emergency supplies, agricultural know-how, and opportunities that empower people to live independent lives, free from poverty, disease and hunger. This organization is often the first on the scene in major disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. They also provide ongoing support to impoverished communities across the globe. How Amazing!

As co-founder, Dave's role includes speaking, fundraising and managing strategic partnerships around the globe. He is the trumpeter of Convoy's mission. Without funds and volunteers, the amazing outreach this organization provides cannot happen. When Dave came to our office seeking care, he was limited in his ability to work. He could not complete his speaking engagements due to his dizziness and facial pain. He was limited in his ability to fundraise. **Helping Dave not only meant getting him better, it meant getting him back to his calling and work that helps so many individuals and communities in crisis across the globe.** I had a HUGE task ahead of me as a fairly new dentist and even newer practitioner of Neuromuscular Dentistry... I wanted to get him healthy and helping others again!

I think it is important to note that throughout the phase I fixed orthotic process, during the transition to a phase II solution, and throughout the full mouth reconstruction process we followed all the protocols taught by LVI. Paying attention to each step and detail was paramount in the success we were able to achieve. Dave also worked with a specialist during his phase I therapy to help him taper off of the prescription medications. He was medication free prior to the start of his reconstruction.

We inserted a beautiful full mouth of porcelain on Dave this January. The porcelain work was completed by Aurum Ceramic and they did an excellent job of creating a very natural smile design and maintaining the bite that we worked so hard to achieve during phase I therapy. Dave remains pain free and completely free of the ineffective medications. **By helping this one patient, my team and I were also able to indirectly help thousands across the globe.**

Dave has returned back to his calling and work of fundraising. He jokes that my team and I were his top fundraisers in 2015! He travels across the globe to rally the masses for his humanitarian efforts to end suffering. He even speaks to crowds and congregations about his own journey of suffering and the power that Neuromuscular Dentistry had in helping him gain his new life and new smile. **Thank you LVI...you are changing dentistry...changing lives by what you teach!**