

Dear Friends and Patients

Remember several years back when I wrote a Christmas letter saying I'd retired, gotten a sex change operation, turned my house into a bird refuge, and was smuggling arms into the Gaza Strip? That kind of backfired, as many people didn't read to the final paragraph saying it was a joke. However, life is now imitating art. For the past two years I have been searching for a new dental graduate to do what I did--work two or three days a week while getting up to speed and learning patient and management skills. I planned to do like my dad did--cut back to 10 days a month or so, and turn my practice over to the newbie in a few years after my patients had gotten to know him or her and were comfortable switching.

It turns out that today's new dental graduates owe so much more money than I did that working a couple of days a week isn't an option—they need to work full time to be able to pay off their education loans. Fortunately, I found Dr. Jared Despain in Sequim. He is a conscientious dentist looking to expand his practice to a second location. Dr. Despain is a 2001 graduate of Indiana University. His dental career began in the Navy (where he discovered the Olympic Peninsula) and he practiced east of the mountains prior to moving to God's country. He loves spending time with his family, traveling and bicycle racing. Jared will be mentoring Dr. Jacob Boyack, a well qualified 2015 graduate of Louisville with a couple years of private practice experience in Utah. Jacob and his wife Katie have two young children and they are excited to discover all the Peninsula has to offer. Each of them will be working two days a week here and two days in Sequim, so if you want the new, idealistic approach, you can see Dr. Boyack. If you prefer someone who's seen it all several times, you can choose Dr. Despain. I hate to admit it, but both of them are probably capable of doing better dentistry than I am in my present decrepitude, although I suspect my pyrotechnic skills are better.

I want to encourage all of you to continue to come to our office for your care--it's where I'll be getting my own dental work. Our hygienist, Candace Tillman, is one of the best, and my assistants, Dana and Stephanie, will also remain with the office, as will Kris for awhile at least. All four of these women have been great employees for years, and part of the deal for transitioning the practice to Dr. Despain was that they remain on staff. I will be working on a part time basis for a few months to help with the transition, and to finish up a few cases.

It's been wonderful being your dentist--where did those 32 years go?--but I am very happy to have found Dr. Despain to take over your care. I was not quite ready to quit dentistry, but finding the right fit for this practice was a challenge. I believe this is the best solution for my patients, my staff, and myself, and I thank all of you for being part of our dental family these many years.