

Chiropractic dinosaur



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Presently I serve as the Alberta Governor to the Canadian Chiropractic Association. One of the opportunities that I've had has been to represent my province at an annual event called Practice Makes Perfect where CMCC students enjoy a research symposium and get to meet the Governors from each province and get exposed to various chiropractic suppliers. This task has brought me both agony and ecstasy.

My purpose at this event is to make myself available to the students to answer any questions in relation to prac-

ticing Chiropractic in Alberta. One of the questions that has perplexed me and it has been presented by a number of the students was, "I understand that you can practice acupuncture in Alberta?" My response was truthful in that I replied, "Yes" but then I would add; "However you should try Chiropractic because it really works." Their responses were at times mixed but definitely reflected a lack of confidence in that art which they were presently studying.

Last November this conversation went to a new level with one of the students. The same question was asked and my reply was the same. The student then proceeded to suggest that he would use any and all sorts of various procedures to care for his patients, including physiotherapy, massage therapy, acupuncture etc. My reply was once again that you should try Chiropractic because it really works and not only does it really work but there are numerous research documents that defend its effectiveness. This student then proceeded to tell me that all of the various procedures he was going to use were chiropractic.

My response was no, that chiropractic was the detection and the correction of the vertebral subluxation complex and nothing more. I wasn't in disagreement with these other procedures, but they were not chiropractic. His reply was that chiropractic was anything that he wanted it to be. I once again disagreed stating that chiropractic was as the founder had set it out to be and he (this student) didn't have the right to change it rather only to adhere to its principles. His response to this was, that I was a Chiropractic Dinosaur and that I would be dead and gone and he would still be practicing. My response was that he may be practicing but he wouldn't be practicing Chiropractic. He once again re-affirmed that I was just a Chiropractic dinosaur.

I didn't think about this too much again until at our June meeting of the board when we were discussing the students at CMCC. I related this experience to my fellow board members from across Canada. Dr. Allan Gotlib

was present and was quite taken back and when I returned to my office on Monday morning there was an e-mail requesting that I write about this experience. I thank Allan for asking me because it gave me cause to reflect upon this incidence when I received his request.

I have practiced chiropractic for thirty-six years and I still love Monday morning and can't wait to get to the office. Not only do I love caring for my patients by applying the art and science of Chiropractic. I have spent a good portion of my life serving chiropractic in various positions. I began as the President of the Calgary Chiropractic Society, then I served as a board member for the Alberta Chiropractic Association, during which time I was Chair of Ongoing Education then Chair of Peer Review. While my family was young I served in the College of Chiropractors in a less demanding role as an investigator for the discipline division under the direction of the Registrar.

Then in 1998 I was elected to the council of the College of Chiropractors of Alberta where I served two years as 2nd vice president and two years as president. While I was there I also served on the CFCRB (Canadian Federation of Chiropractic Regulatory Boards) serving on the AIT committee, which was struck to bring our profession into compliance with the Agreement on Internal Trade. This was almost a three year process but one in which I believe I had a fairly positive input.

When I completed my term at the College I then was elected to represent our Province as the Governor to the Canadian Chiropractic Association. I have served now for a little over three years and presently Chair the Government Relations committee. The reason I serve like so many others of my profession is that we believe that chiropractic has its rightful place in the health care delivery system here in Canada, not only do we believe it but feel the need to turn our beliefs into actions.

Even though I have served in these various positions my greatest joy has been in practicing Chiropractic. Serving thousands of patients over the years. Knowing full well that I did not have the power to heal only the ability to apply the Chiropractic principles and deliver the chiropractic adjustments. Through these applications I have seen the sick get well and see the well stay well and have seen the positive changes in their lives.

So the question needs to be answered, am I a Chiropractic dinosaur?

If it means that I adhere to the principles taught by the

founder D.D. Palmer and then added upon by his son B.J. Palmer, then I am.

If it means that following the principles of science that subluxations do exist, that they are real and have been scientifically validated by many in our profession and others, then I am.

If it means that by giving a chiropractic adjustment I have a profound effect on those subluxations and stimulate and influence the proprioceptive nerves which in turn stimulate the cerebellum which then stimulates the other centers in the cerebrum bathing them in positive stimulations which then has a positive effect on all other centers and systems within the body, then I am.

If it means that relying on my hands and my heart and my mind to apply specific adjustments to the spine of thousands to allow their innate abilities within to magnify and heal them, then I am.

If it means that just adjusting spines from those who are only moments old to just before they leave to the next state of existence, then I am.

If it means that I have incredible confidence of the human body-mind team to create an internal environment where healing can take place when nerve system function is returned, then I am.

If it means standing up to the likes of men like Murray Katz and defending chiropractors rights to take and read x-rays at government standing policy committee meetings before MLA's and member of the Alberta Radiology Society, then I am.

If it means standing up and insuring that we as chiropractors defend our terminology to call a subluxation a subluxation rather than a spinal lesion, then I am.

If it means that serving the greater good of our profession always allowing individuals to practice a broad range of adjustive styles and techniques, then I am.

If it means that working and serving to ensure that those who come after me may have a better opportunity to practice chiropractic, then I am.

If it means still getting excited about going to my office and adjusting patients after 36 years, then I am.

If it means living by the words of B.J. Palmer when he said, "*I will serve Chiropractic, I will save Chiropractic and I will sell chiropractic, if it takes a hundred live times to do it. I will serve it within the law, with out the law or against the law in order to get the sick well to keep the well, well*" then I am.

If these above are true then I am a Chiropractic Dinosaur. That's exactly what I'll be and hopefully I will be able to say that I marched in step with all those chiropractic warriors who preceded me and who will march after me.

Warriors like the names of all those chiropractors that were jailed and died to establish chiropractic as a distinct unique profession.

Warriors like those who worked diligently in the back rooms, and boardrooms and legislatures to establish acts and rights of passage to practice this great profession.

Warriors like those who stood up in the face of adversity and to keep this profession distinct and separate not compromising their principles for acceptance or lucre.

Warrior researchers, who gave their lives proving why chiropractic gets such great results,

I don't clump myself with these great warriors who might also be called Chiropractic dinosaurs but I do acknowledge their greatness on behalf of Chiropractic.

I feel a deep concern and a touch of sadness that a student has no identity of what he is, and what he's going to become or where he came from. That he has no passion for the greater good of Chiropractic. That if Chiropractic had to live or die as a profession based on his conviction and passion it would slip into obscurity. It is sad that he had no understanding of the equilateral triangle of science, art and philosophy. Why would you waste your time and finances to use a chiropractic education to become an acupuncturist, a physiotherapist or what ever it is you're going to use rather than to embrace the beauty of what it is that you are? The world has an incredible need for the youth of today to practice chiropractic with passion and conviction, with skill and talent, with love and compassion. If money is your goal it will come. But it will come in direct relation to you serving chiropractic and those people who will come to you because of the skills, passion and desire you have to serve.

The science that subluxations do exist, that interference to the nervous system robs the individual of complete expression of who he is and that subluxations do stress the nervous system, and deductively if the nervous system is stressed then changes to the physiology or function of the organism will follow.

The art is the wonders of adjustments directed with precession and skill to free up the subluxations, to instill

dynamic function to return motion and stimulation to set forces into action that will alter the human expression in this individual forever.

And the philosophy that embraces, Vitalism, Holism, Naturalism, Conservatism and Critical Rationalism is a reality and gives us the depth of our conviction and the paradigm through which we perceive the world. A philosophy that recognizes the whole of the human expression is greater than the sum of its parts.

I love the last written words of B.J. Palmer.

"Time always has and always will perpetuate those methods which better serve mankind. Chiropractic is no exception to that rule. My illustrious father placed that trust in my keeping, to keep it pure and unsullied or defamed. I pass it on to you unstained, to protect, as he would have you do. As he passed it on so will I. We admonish you to keep this principle and practice unadulterated and unmixed. Humanity needed then what he gave us. You need now what I give you. Out there in those great open spaces are multitudes seeking what you possess. The burdens are heavy; responsibilities are many; obligations are providential; but the satisfaction of traveling the populated highways and byways, relieving suffering and adding millions of years to millions of lives of millions of suffering people, will bring forth satisfaction and glories with greater blessings than you think. Time is of the essence. May God flow from above-down. His bounteous strengths, courage and understanding to carry on; and may your Innates receive and act on that free flow of Wisdom from above-down; inside-out ... for you have in your passion a Sacred Trust. Guard it well."

I don't believe we need to start another faction within our profession and become a club of Chiropractic Dinosaurs, but we do need to pause for a moment and reflect. Reflect on those who came before, who with love, conviction and compassion brought us to where we are today. Reflect on those who will come after us who will also serve chiropractic with love, conviction and compassion bringing chiropractic to its rightful destiny. Pause and then ask ourselves, to which group do I belong? Would I have the power and passion to move this profession forward? Could I call my self a Chiropractic Dinosaur?