

Plymouth Pastor Says,

“My Only Option Was Surgery!”

And you won't believe what happened...

Dear Friends,

Facing surgery can be a scary situation, but sometimes there's a happy ending. In my case, I found something that changed my life. Let me tell you my story...

My name is Pastor Lyle Ohman, and I pastor the Faith Baptist Church in Plymouth.

Not too long ago, I was enjoying my life as a pastor and teacher, taking for granted the everyday activities of life.

Then, one night, I fell and felt my neck snap. Soon after, I started having **difficulty walking and maintaining my balance**. I began to have numbness in different parts of my body, and I couldn't feel my feet. Things got so bad that my wife actually had to **help me put my shoes and socks on**.

As time went by, I became worse, and would fall into the walls as I walked down hallways. Eventually, I was forced to use a cane or walker just to get around – and I was only 55 years old! I thought to myself, **“I don't want to live the rest of my life like this!”**

As my ability to function slowly deteriorated, I had to resign from my teaching responsibilities at our school and I was compelled to sit down while I preached.

After a few months of consulting different doctors, an MRI was performed. They told me I had a **very large herniated disc in my neck**, and the only course of action I could take was to have surgery. They said that during the

surgical procedure, **two bones would be removed from my neck** and replaced with a spacer; that spacer would then be fused with the vertebrae above and below. In all, four segments of my neck would be fused – which is a lot, considering there are only seven segments to begin with!



I wasn't enthusiastic about this scenario, but they told me it was my only option. Being a man of faith, I thought if God knew of another way I could be helped, He would bring it to my attention.

About this time, a member of my congregation told me she had gone to a clinic in Sheboygan for her low back pain and degenerative disc disease. She said they utilized some unique technology to deal with back pain and disc problems in a conservative manner – perhaps I could avoid surgery after all! Immediately, a **glimmer of hope sparked** that maybe, just maybe, there *was* another alternative to going under the knife!

So, I called the Wisconsin Spine Center and consulted with Dr. Timothy Kroneck. He said he felt my situation was serious, but he was willing to accept me as a patient to see what we could do. At that time, I was essentially

immobile, **moving around only with the help of a cane or walker**.

After a few weeks of care, I noticed things were starting to get better.

The first thing I noticed was I could respond a little bit quicker when my legs would suddenly buckle on me. Then, my numbness began to disappear, my legs were getting stronger, and I was becoming steadier when I walked. About two months after I started care with Dr. Kroneck, I was able to stop using the cane altogether.

At this point, I've been able to go back to teaching full-time, I don't have to sit down when I preach anymore, and just a few days ago, I was **able to jog for the first time in about a year**. Not bad for a guy who had to use a cane and walker just to get around!

I remember back when I was basically incapacitated. One Sunday morning, as my wife was driving us to church, we saw a couple walking along the road holding hands. I turned to her and said, **“I'd give anything just to be able to do that again!”** Well, now we CAN... and we even hold hands!

I am very grateful to Dr. Kroneck and his staff for the professional yet compassionate care I've received. I believe that the treatments, along with the grace of God, have allowed me to experience the remarkable results that have been achieved!

-Pastor Lyle Ohman