

Virginia Beach Acupuncturist uses ancient wisdom to change lives

BY KAREN BEARDSLEE KWASNY

Bryon Jones, L.Ac., of Virginia Beach Acupuncture is proof that a book can change a life. When he was a sophomore in college, preparing to take the MCAT exams before entering medical school, he read the book *The Energy Within* by Richard M. Chin and his life began to move in another direction. Bryon, a nationally certified Acupuncturist and Oriental Medicine Practitioner, had long been interested in alternative forms of medicine and the body's ability to heal itself and Chin's work affected him greatly. "Chin is an M.D. and an Oriental Medicine doctor," Bryon explains. "After reading his book about Oriental Medicine and the effectiveness of it, I knew I had found my place in the world of healthcare and I haven't looked back since."

Born and raised in Great Bridge, Bryon received degrees in Biology and Chemistry from Virginia Tech and an M.S. in Traditional Oriental Medicine from Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in San Diego. During his four years at Pacific College, Bryon worked off-campus at East/West Acupuncture Incorporated, the most successful acupuncture clinic in San Diego at that time.

"In California, patients are often referred to Acupuncturists by Orthopedic Surgeons in addition to traditional physical therapy," says Bryon. "I learned a great deal there about working with patients in pain and dealing with post-surgical complications. It was a necessary part of my education."

According to Bryon, what was perhaps even more necessary to his education in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine was real hands-on experiential learning of the profession within the culture that gave rise to it. That's why, upon receiving his M.S., Bryon went to China and immersed himself in the world of Traditional Oriental Medicine at Chengdu Hospital.

"Oriental Medicine is based on the Yin/Yang theory of balanced relationships. When there's an imbalance of relationships within the body, there can be serious consequences."

— Bryon Jones, L.Ac.

The hospitals in China are integrated, meaning Western Medicine and Traditional Oriental Medicine work alongside each other and with each other. "In China, it's not an either/or situation," Bryon emphasizes. "Most doctors there are trying to prevent disease and heal without drugs – it's the way of medicine there. They work hard to pull the best from both traditions as they treat their patients." From 9 to 5, for over two months, Bryon worked with respected experts in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, coming to understand their treatment choices and the culture and wisdom behind the tradition. He witnessed Oriental medicine at work in such areas as Pediatrics, Gynecology and Neurology and was especially impressed by the way every field incorporated herbal and acupuncture medicine.

Practitioners of Oriental Medicine address the mind, body, and spirit of each individual; they believe that all parts relate and interact – affecting each other

in profound ways.

"Oriental Medicine is based on the Yin/Yang theory of balanced relationships," Bryon explains. "When there's an imbalance of relationships within the body, disease manifests."

Being a part of Oriental Medicine in China allowed Bryon to arrive, finally, at a point of true confidence in his own work. "As the Chinese doctors noted pride in my work, I knew, then that I had become part of this traditional world of healing," Bryon recalls. "I was confident and ready to come back to Virginia to open my practice."

Bryon began practicing in Chesapeake as soon as he returned to this area. Within nine months he had built up enough clientele to open his own practice on Indian River Road, which he did with the indispensable and much appreciated labor-intensive help from his father, James E. Jones. Since then, Virginia Beach Acupuncture has thrived largely through word of mouth.

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— Michelle Pippin

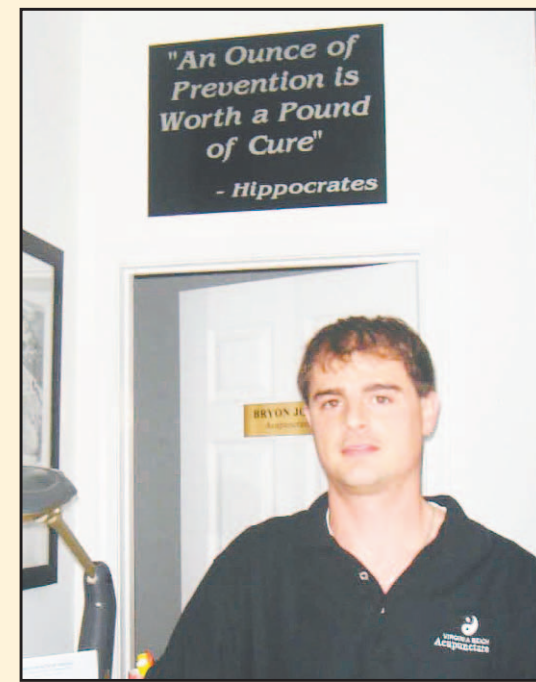
"This type of healthcare is generally new to this area," Bryon says. "Because doctors aren't taught acupuncture in great detail in medical school, they often don't know what we can offer their patients and how we can make a real difference in patients' healthcare." For Acupuncturists and Traditional Oriental Medicine practitioners, healthcare means prevention — the daily maintenance of health in order to ward off illness, disease and malaise. To help his patients manage their healthcare more efficiently, Bryon leans heavily on education and empowerment. "I want my patients to know how to care for themselves – mind, body, and spirit," Bryon proclaims. "I aim to cure, but I also strive to empower my patients to better overall health."

At Virginia Beach Acupuncture, Bryon doesn't treat diseases; he treats *individuals* with diseases, strengthening the individual to promote reversal of the disease process. And it's this individualized approach to patient care that makes all the difference for people like Kelley Steinruck and Michelle Pippin.

Kelley came to Bryon shortly after she was suddenly stricken with Bell's palsy. "Bell's palsy took me from completely normal one minute to paralyzed on one side of my face within hours," Kelley describes. "I visited my doctor the same day and was given antiviral medication and steroids and told to wait for things to improve because they didn't know its cause or how to fix it."

Dissatisfied with her treatment and depressed by her condition, Kelley began to research alternative approaches to her condition. That's when she discovered the role acupuncture could play in her healing. "A friend recommended me to Virginia Beach Acupuncture, so I emailed Bryon immediately," Kelley remembers. "I said I needed hope, but I had little money to spend. He saw me immediately and told me he could help me, no doubt at all. And he did."

In a little over a month of treatment, Kelley has experienced 90% improvement in facial movement. She's thrilled by the results and terrifically impressed



Bryon Jones, L.Ac., holds degrees in Biology and Chemistry from Virginia Tech and an M.S. in Traditional Oriental Medicine from Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in San Diego. He completed his training at a hospital in China.

by Bryon's expertise and professionalism.

So, too, is Michelle Pippin who turned to Bryon for help when she experienced a stomach ailment that her doctors could not name or treat. "I spent 27 days in and out of the hospital before I went to Bryon," Michelle explains. "And after just one visit with him, I was on a fast road to recovery." Michelle's niece, who had suffered for years from Lymphoangioma of the eye, also began recovery after visiting Bryon at Virginia Beach Acupuncture. "Bryon is a consummate academic," Michelle proclaims. "When he learned of my niece's problem, he researched it completely and shared with us the information he had gained. With Bryon's help, my niece has shown marked improvement and I've been able to be a part of her recovery. It's been truly remarkable the way Oriental medicine has changed our lives."

Before visiting Virginia Beach Acupuncture, Kelley and Michelle had been unaware of the power of Oriental Medicine. Bryon's treatments and knowledge of the workings of the energy within, and harmonizing these energies to create individual healing, have enhanced their everyday health and made them gratefully aware that this powerful realm of healthcare is available to them.

As unknowing skeptics walk in the door and become advocates of this ancient — yet new to many — way of healing, the word is getting out that there is hope. One just has to give it a try, as many grateful patients can attest. The range of conditions that can be treated is vast and the results are, at times, amazing to those who had given up hope of being helped. Bryon looks forward to helping many others with his skill and insight into the human body and the energy within.



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