

December 09, 2003

Dear Dr. Flowers,

I am writing this letter to you from a very special part of my heart. Why would I say that? Because I was a lady who was led to you after I had been turned away from 4 other physicians who refused to do any work to help correct my deformed eye caused from poor work from another doctor. All they were sure of is that they did not want to be held responsible in any way. Even though that hurt and I felt hopeless, I understood as best as I could. I had almost come to accept that how I looked now was something I was going to need to find a way to live with. As you know I wore sunglasses most of the time to hide my eyes. I have a girlfriend here at work that cared enough about me to make a call to a Dr. in Beverly Hills who referred her to Dr. Bruce Connell. She went with me to my appointment. He and another physician looked at my eyes and gasped. I had been referred to doctors who just did surgery on eyes who turned me away. Instead this time, Dr. Connell told me about a doctor in Honolulu who had a special gift or these kinds of problems. He said Dr. Flowers is the only doctor I know of who may be able to help you. I still remember calling you the next day. You took the time to talk to me by phone and have me e-mail photos to you. Such a quick response I thought to myself. Then came the words that I needed to be in your office Tuesday afternoon. My goodness, it is Friday and I am in California. So this very frightened girl of 52 years got on a plane alone and flew to Honolulu to see this Dr. Flowers. Getting off the plane and walking into his office I was both excited and scared. Was he going to be able to fix my eye? In you walked, you were just a normal human being. I guess I expected some kind of a God. Your initial observation of my eye frightened me. I could see in your eyes the concern at the condition my eyes were in. Then you said the words I did not want to hear. That the scar tissue was worse than you had expected or could see from the photos I had sent to you. Immediately I began to lose hope. But you stayed and kept talking to me and reexamined my eye. Then you uttered the words that began the change in my life. They will remain forever with me. You looked at me and said you were willing to try and help me because you wanted to give me back my life. I almost fell off the chair. How did this man know that was exactly how I had felt? After all, I had never uttered those words aloud, it was my secret. Instantly, I knew the answer. You saw me with your heart and you connected with my pain. It became clear to me that I had been guided to you by a much higher power. So, you were willing and once I knew that you understood something that seemed somehow to elude everyone, we decided we would try. You asked my permission if you went in and decided you could do nothing that it was ok to end the surgery. I agreed and the preparations began. I could not sleep that night. I was so afraid of all the what ifs.....Then morning came. It was time. I called a few people who I love the most and shared my fears with them. I walked through your door greeted by Suki. She handed me a consent form and the terror consumed me. She and I talked about it and what it meant and somewhere within my being I found the courage to sign. Trust can be extremely frightening. In the surgery room I went and here you came. I will never forget the way you touched my shoulder as if to say it will be alright, a sign

of comforting me. And then you placed your hands on top of my head and bowed your head onto your hands and my head and prayed. I still cry every time I tell that part. Again you identified with my soul. That brought me more peace that you will ever know. And I knew without a doubt with your abilities and God's guidance you would do the very best you could for me. I do not have the words to really thank a man who had the courage to take a chance on a lady who had given up, felt terribly ugly and ashamed, and lived in constant discomfort/pain and this was going to forever be my life. Today, 34 days later I look beautiful and am still healing, which lets me know it is even going to be better than I could have ever imagined for myself. YOU, have let me feel pretty again. I know you have performed many surgeries, however, not all have been as challenging as mine. I feel a very special bond with you that I will treasure in my heart forever. For anyone that is led to you that is fearful, I hope that they find and feel the safeness, confidence, and trust that I found with the most wonderful, gifted, kind, gentle, caring man who not only sees with his eyes but feels with his heart the persons wounds both physically and emotionally who is looking to him for help. Thank you for giving me back a part of my life that was stolen. I can even look in the mirror today and smile. If anyone ever needs to talk to me, please feel free to give my phone number. I would be happy to help anyone, just as I was helped. I love you Dr. Flowers.

Tamara
Costa Mesa, CA