

August 18, 2026

Dear Patients and Friends,

I hope you all have had a great summer and those of you with kids are getting back into the school routine without too much difficulty. It has been a while since I last wrote to you about what is going on in our practice.

Hardly a day goes by without someone asking whether I am retiring. Some people even *tell* me I am retiring - which is news to me! The answer is simple: I have no plans to retire. Period. I still find tremendous joy and satisfaction in getting to know so many wonderful patients and families, most of whom I consider to be my friends. I am now treating second, and occasionally third generations of families, and these relationships are a true blessing in my life. I am not nearly ready to give that up, nor am I ready to figure out what I would do with myself every day. Besides, I know my wife is not ready for me to be home every day!

I will be 67 in November, and I now have two incredible grandsons, and hopefully more grands to come! Accordingly, in October, I am planning to cut back on my time in the office from four clinical days each week to 2 and a half. This will allow me to spend more time with family and do some travelling that has been difficult while working a busy practice by myself.

So, I plan to continue practicing orthodontics for a long time, but I will cut back to working a little more than a 60% full-time schedule. The routine will be for me to be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesdays and a half day on either Monday or Thursday. Of course, Dr Kim will continue working full-time, Monday through Friday.

It is hard for me to believe that Dr Kim has been with me for two years. As you have learned, he is a very personable, caring person who happens to be brilliant and a very skilled orthodontist. As I informed you in the letter I sent introducing him to you two years ago, I spent almost 3 years finding the right person to join me in taking care of our patients. Since we began working together, we jointly review the initial records on every new patient to design the treatment plans. It has been real treat for me to be able to learn some of the new trends in orthodontic treatment from him while sharing some things I have learned from years of experience. Our practice philosophies are locked in with each other, and I know you can trust him to help me and our dedicated staff deliver the quality results that we strive for and do so with a caring bedside manner. Nothing like a small-town Louisiana person to be easy to get along with and fit well into our community's culture.

As always, I feel very blessed that you and yours have trusted me to be your orthodontist and taken time to send your friends our way. It means the world to me and I am humbly appreciative.

Warmest Regards,

Mike Mizell

PS - Our faithful front desk receptionist, Ashley Duet, marked her 30-year anniversary working with me last week. She truly feels like you are all family to her, and she is certainly like family to me. Help me give her some appreciation when you next talk to her.