
WELCOME TO OUR HOPE PROJECT'S

Newsletter

We're so glad you're here!

What we are about.....

HOPE!

This newsletter aims to bring hope and joy to your daily life by sharing my family's journey through unexpected challenges. We firmly believe that a positive outlook, faith, and the right circle of friends will help you tackle any obstacle with resilience and a smile. In the upcoming editions, we will candidly share our experiences with Parkinson's Disease and Esophageal Cancer.

Meet the Parker Family

From left to right: our oldest daughter (Grace), Me (Nick), my wife, hero, and best friend (Trina), and our youngest daughter (Anna) on Resurrection Sunday.



(God does nothing TO us! But does many things for us.)

So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose. For he knew all about us before we were born and he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son. This means the Son is the oldest among a vast family of brothers and sisters who will become just like him.

Romans 8:28-29

RECAP... The why behind Our Hope Project!.

Most of you know my body was attacked by Parkinson's Disease in 2014 and as a result I received a Deep Brain Stimulator (DBS) implant in December of

2022 at Vanderbilt University. From sixteen pills per day before the implant ([see video](#)), to none after the implant was inserted. Dr. Travis Hassell, (Vanderbilt Neurology), whom I saw as recently March 2025 made the statement, "you'd definitely be on the extreme positive side of the DBS success spectrum." To that, my only reply was, "Dr. Hassell, you were used by God to perform a miracle in my life."

Two weeks after my wife shot the video above, in January of 2023, I was diagnosed with invasive adenosquamous carcinoma (Esophageal Cancer) and initially informed one of two people with this diagnosis would be alive and cancer free in a year. God had already assembled my team. Dr.'s Grover, Graham, Antiporda and Dr. D. Chism had a plan. The plan was Chemotherapy, Proton Radiation Therapy, Surgery (complete esophagectomy), and Immunotherapy.

I faced a choice: Would I trust the God I claimed to know since childhood to guide me through this trial? Would I blame Him, or could I continue to see His goodness despite my circumstances? Surprisingly, this season has been transformative. The uncertainty—not just in diagnosis and prognosis but also in the surrender of control I once clung to—has been exhilarating. I had no idea how God would use this story to encourage others.

Years ago, after reading *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, I prayed a bold prayer: "God, use me." I was involved in ministry—teaching Sunday school, mentoring young men, and even joining mission trips. However, looking back, my faith was comfortable. I relied on my abilities more than on God's power. It wasn't until Parkinson's and cancer entered my life that my dependence on the Holy Spirit truly deepened. My routines shifted, not out of obligation, but through faith-driven reliance on God.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Recently, I pondered: What if, at the end of my life, Jesus said, "Nick, you were a great deacon, leader, husband, and dad, but this wasn't the fullness of what I had for you. You held on to control." Isn't the goal to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant"? (Matthew 25:23) Shouldn't we aim to live beyond comfort, fully surrendered to God's plan?

My understanding of "God, use me" has evolved. It's now defined by how God works through my limitations—through cancer and Parkinson's. I see how surrendering control leads to God-sized results. I'm not suggesting we stop pursuing excellence; rather, true impact often comes through trials. There's beauty in discovering purpose amidst suffering, where God's strength shines the brightest.

What we've been up to this Spring at Our Hope Project! *(The how behind Our Hope Project...)*

Time flies when you are having fun. Living God's story from Kenton, Tn to Kampala, Uganda and everywhere in between. I have been so blessed to tell the story of hope in difficult seasons in seven states, two countries, in churches, in homes, at corporate meetings, in restaurants, and in hospitals. Here are some highlights....

Kampala, Uganda (March 2025)



First well location outside Wells of Joy school. Uganda (Bottom l-r, Pastor David May, Ola Ajoye-Top l-r, Nick P., Trina P., Eddie DeAmorim, Melanie Sims, Pastor Makumbi Johnson)



Children / Students in the courtyard at Wells Of Joy School / Orphanage, Uganda



Nick & Pastor Makumbi Johnson at Victory Living Word Church, Kampala, Uganda



A small group from The Lord's Child, the mission arm of our church in Knoxville, TN travelled to visit a school, an orphanage and a church in Uganda. I was invited to give the message, with an interpreter, and our team was blessed to pray with the congregation (almost the entire congregation) after the service. WOW! Blown away, and precious, is all I can say...

Bethpage Baptist Church, Kenton, TN (Palm Sunday, 2025)



Bethpage Baptist Church, (Kenton, Tn) just days after it was devastated by a Tornado December 11, 2021. (Photo Baptist Reflector)



New Building just before reopening in Nov. 2024. (photo courtesy of Google Maps)

This always happens-When I go to minister hope, I receive so much more. As was the case on Palm Sunday as I travelled five hours to Bethpage Baptist Church to share a message of hope, hopefully. As I was researching, I discovered the church had been completely destroyed 3.5 years earlier by a tornado, reopening only months before my visit. Todd Littleton, a deacon, when asked if the church "really" planned to rebuild, was quoted as saying, "I didn't know NOT building back was an option" (Baptist Reflector). I can almost see God grinning as Todd made that statement of endurance.

Challenge

In your prayer time with the Lord, Pray this prayer and be open to whatever He says afterward....

"Use Me

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, *in, insert your name, life,* On earth as it is in heaven."

Matt 6:8b-10

[Recent Newsletters](#)

[Archived Newsletters](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[Subscribe](#)



Nick Parker | 216 Wahoo Court | Seymour, TN 37865 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!