
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 recent experiences dealing with Parkinson's Disease and Esophageal Cancer.



Meet the Parker Family

From right to left: my wife, hero, and best friend, Trina; our youngest, Anna; and oldest daughter, Grace; and me (Nick)..

Photo from Luke & GiGi F.'s wedding

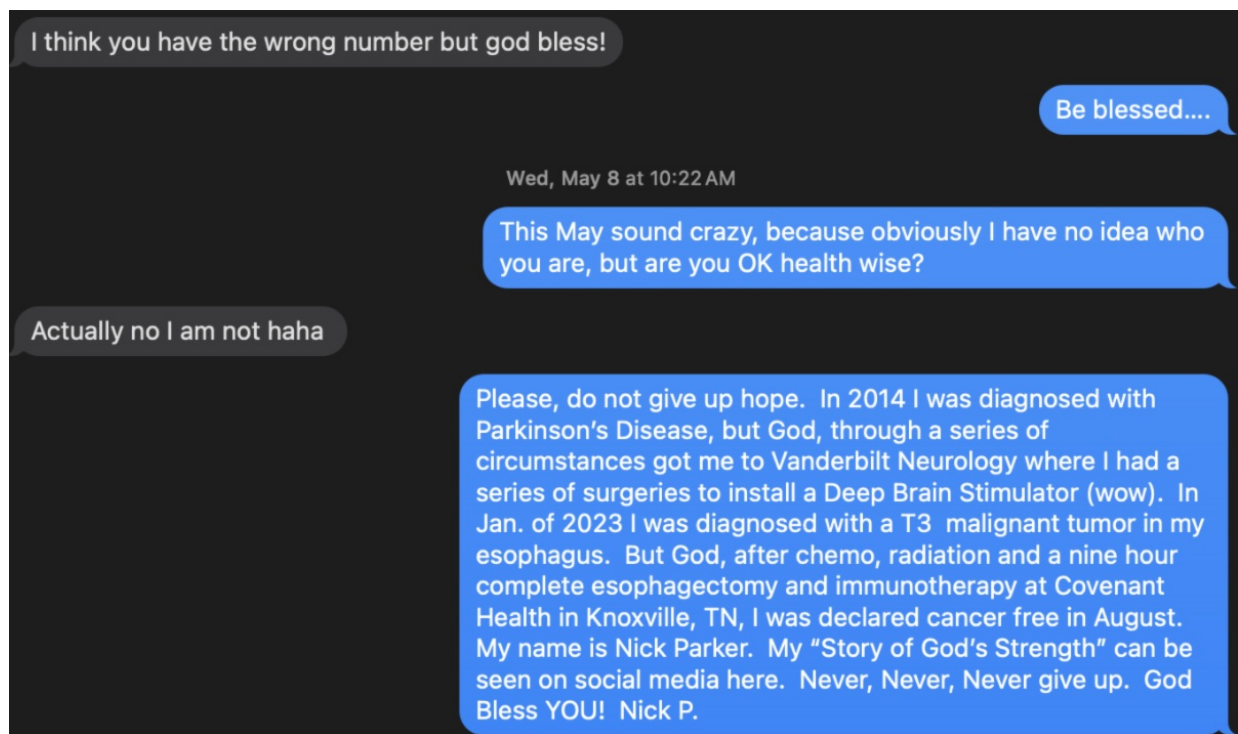
(Lessons learned continued...)

Keep showing up....

One thing I have committed to since my unplanned life-changing events of Parkinson's and Cancer diagnosis is to focus more on encouraging others. In addition to this newsletter, which I pray has encouraged you, I was prompted to use the contacts in my phone (1,700 at last count) and just pray for one of them "randomly" each day, and if led to, send a text just to let them know I was thinking of them and that I prayed for them that day. I send this out as God leads me to, after my devotional each morning, so it is unpredictable to me. Since I believe nothing catches God off guard, then the following story should not have surprised me. As I said, the contacts in my phone are former coworkers, friends, family, and former clients (picture your contact list). Much

of the time I'll receive no reply or a cordial reply, but sometimes, sometimes I'll be blown away by the unmistakable fingerprints of the divine in a situation. Several months ago, I sent a text to a former coworker whom I hadn't seen or spoken to in about twenty-three years. I'm convinced my job is to send the text, God's job is to get it where it needs to go. After sending the text I went about my day which included mowing and trimming the yard.

I wear AirPods as hearing protection while I walk behind the mower and could hear notifications come in, but didn't check them until I finished mowing. Before trimming, I looked at the phone and saw a reply to the text I sent my former coworker. The reply was, "I think you have the wrong number, but god bless". I shot a quick "be blessed" text back then placed the phone back in my pocket and began trimming the lawn. It takes about 15-20 minutes to trim my yard, but for "some" reason I couldn't get the "wrong number" text out of my mind. I typed a reply and while I cannot share everything, here is a screenshot of the ensuing conversation:



text of encouragement to unknown

Life-changing events (planned or unplanned) are great opportunities to reset or recalibrate our habits and focus on the most important things. To me, the "most important things" have become relationships. Of course, I haven't arrived in this area, but I was reminded as our family attended my nephew Luke's wedding the other day just how precious and fluid relationships are. I was reading this week in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10:

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble".



Realizing that healthy relationships are things that we must prize and safeguard. “Healthy” is hard and requires much grace and forgiveness. I say sarcastically, “I’m pretty easy to like until you get to know me.” It takes more effort for the close-in team of my wife and daughters to love me because they see the junk. The snarky attitudes, impatience...

I encourage you to reflect on your relationships today. Are you both helping each other succeed? I am confident that if you continue to "show up" and put in the effort in your relationship with God, your spouse, your child, and others, God will help you succeed.

Thought of the day

“God's definition of what matters is pretty straightforward. He measures our lives by how we love.”

Francis Chan

Coming Next Week

lessons learned continued...

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