
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.



April 27, 2023 Discharged!



Meet the Parker Family

From left to right- my wife, hero, and best friend, Trina. My oldest daughter, Grace. My youngest daughter, Anna. I (Nick), the content creator, and editor.

Trusting His Plan (continued...)

Lessons of Trust & Dependency

If I had to label the next phase of this process, I'd call it the cleanup phase, the maintenance phase, the gratitude phase or perhaps most importantly, the "God's got this phase".

Sure, the prognosis was still not great on April 27, 2023 (discharge date), but I was on my way home with a new outlook and resolve. I was on a liquid diet and a feeding tube to supplement my caloric intake, having lost about eighty pounds. I would still have monthly follow-up visits with oncology and two surgeons, immunotherapy (Opdivo) every two weeks for a year, stepping down to once a month afterward. This drug would be given monthly via a port, surgically inserted in my right chest. Mix in these lifestyle adjustments with the Parkinson's diagnosis, the adjustments required by the hardware implanted in my chest and brain (Deep Brain Stimulator) and my schedule was filling up fast with things, well, not so pleasant.

Financial Trust & Dependency

Meanwhile, I was still "working" or being paid while not working. As a matter of conscience, I had a conversation with my Regional Manager at Farm Bureau Insurance, basically informing him of my resignation. It had been nearly six months of limited time and sales production in the office which not only affected the local office staff but I wasn't able to serve my clients at an acceptable standard. So, at age 53 I was stepping away from my plan of financial security in my highest income years. I had really just begun anything close to a retirement savings plan (I know how dumb this sounds) and had no clue how this would look financially for my family. As "fate" and my contract would have it, there would be an opportunity to have a stable income for a certain period as long as I had been with the company for at least twenty years. Remembering now, that this didn't catch God off guard and my newly discovered perspective on focusing on the good, it was no surprise that I had just surpassed the twenty-on-year mark. Coincidence? Not a chance!



Greg K. (Reg. Mgr) and me signing retirement papers.

By “chance” I had been advised by a coworker and good friend, Josh W., to purchase disability insurance. Josh was my Insurance Agent and we were in the same small group at church and just a few years earlier had helped me get into the insurance business. I did purchase that disability insurance, and while my wife and I considered discontinuing the policy a number of times due to it’s annual cost. We kept it, by “chance”? Not a chance!



Josh W. and his wife, Laura

I’ll never forget June 5, 2023 at family dinner at my in-laws (Hoyt & Marcheta (Keta)) when Hoyt asked if he could speak to me privately in his home office. He said something to the effect of “I’m pretty sure you weren’t planning on retiring at fifty-three and Keta feels led, by God, for us to pay off all your debt.” I emotionally lost it! I regained my composure enough to continue the conversation. Not wanting to spend a minute or walk one step outside of God’s perfect will for our family and me, financially, I asked Hoyt if I could get back with him. I explained to Hoyt, that I had a history of over worrying about financial provision (why I don’t know) and trusting the Lord in that area. I just needed some time to pray. It was Tuesday, June 6, 2023, the next day, while sitting in a prayer service at our **church** one night still sorting through things in my mind, I simply said, Lord can we accept this or are you still training me to cast my cares on you? Is this just casting my cares on Hoyt & Keta? I had my Bible open to Zephaniah 3:17 (My new favorite verse) when, for the first time my eyes slid up the page to verses 11-12:

"I will remove all proud and arrogant people from among you.
There will be no more haughtiness on my holy mountain.
Those who are left will be the lowly and humble,
for it is they who trust in the name of the Lord."

Zephaniah 3:11-12

It was as if God were saying, “this is about your humility, faith, and my ability”. I knew when I had an opportunity to tell the story, I couldn’t take credit for being financially savvy myself, I would have to humble myself and tell them I wasn’t prepared to retire

this is another way God provided sovereignly, through my mother and father-in-law. Now weeknight prayer services used to be pretty small, intimate affairs so after reading those passages, I left the room and called my father-in-law.



Hoyt and Keta (Mother and Father-in-law)

Thought of the week

"Hope is the joyful expectation of a good outcome"

Unknown

Coming Next Week

Lessons learned (continued)

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