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WELCOME TO OUR HOPE PROJECT'S

# Tuesday Newsletter

We're so glad you're here!

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## What we are about.....

### HOPE

This weekly 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 next edition, I will candidly share my recent experiences dealing with a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease.



## Meet the Parker Family

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

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## Facing Parkinson's Disease Diagnosis with Hope Part 4



### Facing Parkinson's Disease Diagnosis with Hope Part 4

I'd like to say from that day in 2014, I have had no anxiety, fear or uncertainty, but I'd be lying. I can say that since the day of the interruption of a Parkinson's diagnosis, since that encounter in that lodge in Arkansas, my faith and my appreciation for life have grown tremendously. The best way I've been able to explain it is, "life just smells better." After all, aren't those interruptions (Good or Bad) some of the things that make life exciting? If life follows our script it is usually pretty forgettable and safe but I'd challenge you to examine the memories that are most vivid for you and see if these "unplanned" interruptions stand out across your life as well.

A couple of examples:

For much of my life I've been an avid outdoorsman, Hunting, Fishing, Hiking, Kayaking, etc.... Thousands of hours spent afield on hundreds of trips and as I reflect on these adventures it was always the trips that didn't go according to my plan that I remember most:

On a fall hike on the seventy-two miles of the Appalachian Trail in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, one September, we were hit by sub-freezing temps and woke, shivering to an 8" snow.

Another unplanned adventure was during a duck hunt. Josh W. disappeared for several minutes. I found him up to his chest in panic mode, stuck in quick mud using a bag of decoys as a life preserver. Stopping just short of calling the rescue squad Josh decided he'd be better off leaving his chest waders in the soupy mud and finishing the hunt in his thermal underpants.

Parkinson's Disease, an interruption? Looking back I can see now, even though I didn't realize it at the time, my life experiences, occupational choices, relationships, etc. had prepared me to stand during these interruptions. While this diagnosis may have surprised me, I truly believe it didn't take God by surprise. How can I say my Faith in God has grown in view of this terrible diagnosis? Stay tuned as I share my response to the question, **If God is good, then why....**

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## Coming Next Week

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