
WELCOME TO OUR HOPE PROJECT'S

Newsletter

When Bad Things Happen

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: my wife, hero, and best friend (Trina), our oldest daughter (Grace), our youngest daughter (Anna), Me (Nick).



"God does nothing TO us! But does many things FOR us."

My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can! ³ For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up power within you to endure all things. ⁴ And then as your endurance grows even stronger it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking.

James 1:2 - 4 (The Passion Translation)

Parkinson's Disease

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."

Update

As of today the DBS implant, along with strenuous exercise which is known to slow the progression of the disease ([Yale School of Medicine](#)), continues to alleviate many of the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease. It seems odd to most people when I say things like, "yes I have been diagnosed with Parkinson's, I'm training for a half-marathon, and yes, I have difficulty maintaining my balance while walking up the twelve stairs in our home". With Parkinson's it is more exhausting to speak for 20 minutes than to jog for an hour.

Esophageal Cancer

Two weeks after the DBS activation video in [this link](#) was shot, I was diagnosed with invasive adenosquamous carcinoma (Esophageal Cancer). The G.I. doctor initially informed me that 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.

Update

In February of 2026 I had another appointment. This time with Dr. Antiporda (surgeon who performed the esophagectomy). He, after reviewing the bloodwork and the first upper G.I. scan since surgery, chemo, radiation and immunotherapy said, "I'd call you CURED". Not in remission but "CURED". Extraordinary choice in words I thought...

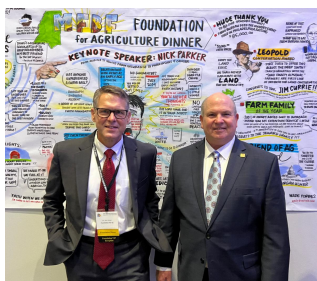


Feb., 2026, Trina and I at Thompson Cancer Survival Center for Upper G.I. procedure, bloodwork, scans. Diagnosis, "I'd call you Cured"

What we've been up to the past year at Our Hope Project!



Founder and Staff in the courtyard at Wells Of Joy School, with Trina and I, Uganda. (Above)
Tractor purchased and on site at School/Orphanage in Uganda (Below)



I was privileged to meet some great people while sharing the "Faith over Fear" and "Obstacles to Opportunities" message with the Mississippi Farm Bureau and in Charlottesville, Virginia with the Virginia Farm Bureau.



Lace 'em up....

For most of my life I have enjoyed sports. Particularly outdoor sports, but for whatever reason I never "loved" jogging. I liken running to golf in terms of the amount of effort (practice) required to produce miniscule improvements in your run time or your golf score. I prefer the idea of major gains with minimal effort. You know, max revenue with minimal cost (margin). With few exceptions in golf, lessons from a PGA pro will yield only a stroke or two off your game. Which would be great if I were Scottie Sheffler (68 scoring average). But for me, the twice-a-year golfer, lessons for me would produce an improvement from a score of 94 to 93 (I'm being kind to myself). Well, you get my point.



Trina P., Eddie F., Nick P.,
2025 Thompson Cancer
Survivor Center, Race against
Cancer



Nick P., 2026 Knoxville Expo



Nick P. fun jog with daughter,
Anna P.

....Lace 'em up (cont.)

As long as the focus remains on the golf score or improving a time or the end gain I never learn to enjoy the beauty of the course in golf. The main reason I started jogging again is a long-life (NOT life-long) goal, as running has proven beneficial for health and particularly impeding the progression of Parkinson's Disease. See article: [Yale School of Medicine](#). The reason I keep jogging is

because God has shown me the delight in the simpleness of walking out the front door, lacing up my Altra's (shoes) and jogging in the rain, or with my daughter's, or walking with my wife. I'm all in for goal setting, heck, I've run twelve races (before I sound like I'm bragging, mostly 5k's) since Cancer Surgery and have three more scheduled for the year, including a Half Marathon & 10k. God is allowing me to experience the simpleness of running like a child as lesson for how He intended me to approach life; enjoying the daily, the easy and the not-so-easy, jogs. Believing if I lace enough of the daily jogs together eventually I will arrive at the destination God has for me. The metaphor of running, for me, has become the way God is teaching me I was created to dream (run), without limits. Like I did when I was a child, before the weights of this world convinced me to quit running, dreaming and truly living. As parents how many times have we fussed at our children; Slow down, quit running!

When is the last time you were told, slow down, quit running? I bet it has been a while.

When is the last time you "laced 'em up" and ran (dreamt) like a child, the way you were created to?

...since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have born testimony to the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us,... (Hebrews 12:1)

Challenge

What is your life's challenge, or race, today?

Have you given up on your dream, quit running, settled for less than?

Could you reframe the way you've looked at your challenge and discover how to get better not bitter?

God's transformation begins with believing He is good and taking action based on that belief! **"Lace 'em up!"**

Try it, what have you got to lose?

Quote of the day...

"If I chose to skip a workout, I chose to let Parkinson's Disease win that day."
[Jimmy Choi](#)

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