

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Meet Eric Metaxas



The former *BreakPoint* writer now speaks at the microphone formerly held by his mentor, Chuck Colson. We asked Eric to be candid responding to a few questions so you might get to know him better ... he was just that!

You stepped into a huge responsibility when Chuck Colson was called into eternity. What would you say most impressed you in his life and work?

I write about Chuck in my forthcoming book, *Seven Men*—when I look at Chuck’s example, perhaps what astonishes me first about it is that he went to prison even though he could have gotten out of it on a plea bargain. In other words, his faith. It was real. He lived that faith all the way to the end, and since I was there at the very end and watched him give his very last speech — even having the honor of introducing him that day — I can’t tell you what an inspiration he is to me.

You’ve written about some real “spiritual giants”—besides Wilberforce and Bonhoeffer, whose life example inspires you as a believer in 2013?

That’s a trick question! You’ll have to read my book *Seven Men* to find out! It’s a handsome volume, reasonably priced, and widely available. How many copies may I put you down for?

Do you have a “life verse”?

What I love about Scripture is that it’s actually alive, so different verses become significant to me during different seasons. But Phillipians chapter four is a big one for me most days... Being anxious for NOTHING and rejoicing in the Lord ALWAYS. That’s an effort, but it’s one I’d like to think I’m getting better and better at... slowly.

Before you were saved, what did you expect you’d be doing at this point of your life?

I thought I’d be a famous author of novels, so famous that I’d be reclusive and bitter about it. Of course I haven’t written any novels at all. God’s plans are not our plans...

Where did you meet your wife? What do you appreciate most about Susanne?

I met my wife at church, when we both attended Times Square Church in Manhattan. What I appreciate most about my Susanne, besides the fact that she is wise, gutsy, caring, patient, and beautiful inside and out, is

that she is always rooting for me. Oh, and by the way, if that isn’t enough, she directs a crisis pregnancy center in Manhattan. I’m downright impressed with her. Someday I’m going to marry that girl.

You could probably live anywhere. What keeps you thriving in Manhattan?

Well, New York is my home. I was born there and grew up in nearby Connecticut and my wife grew up in nearby New Jersey, so our families are nearby and we try to see them as often as possible. Our church community and many dear friends are here. Amazing things are happening in New York—there are hundreds of churches in Manhattan that simply did not exist here twenty or thirty years ago. So it’s an exciting place to be in many respects—the Lord is at work here. But the real answer is that I feel called to be here to be a part of that work.

What’s on the Eric Metaxas “bucket list”?

I don’t believe in bucket lists, because it implies that this life is all there is, which it ain’t. Anything we want to do here that’s worth doing we can do in heaven forever and ever. But one thing I believe the Lord wants me to do on this side of the vale is to host a mainstream TV talkshow. I’m working on that. Stay tuned.

For what would you want to be remembered?

Do you mean besides being the narrator on the VeggieTales ESTHER video? That’s a tough one. Seriously, I think for being true to God in everything I do, and for having tried to help others know Him better and serve Him with their whole lives. What else is there, really? I can’t think of anything.

LISTEN: Along with John Stonestreet, Eric is the voice of the daily BreakPoint commentary. [breakpoint.org]

WATCH: A short video of Eric’s incredible conversion story is at his website. [ericmetaxas.com]

FOLLOW: Eric gives both snarky and serious food for thought at his very active Twitter handle. [[@ericmetaxas](https://twitter.com/ericmetaxas)]