



About Eric Elder

Eric writes books + music
for page, stage + screen
to glorify God's name
so Christ may be seen!

you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

Jesus Heals Many

8:14-16pp — Mk 1:29-34; Lk 4:38-41

When Jesus came into Peter's house he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

The Cost of Following Jesus

8:19-22pp — Lk 9:57-60

When Jesus saw the crowd he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Jesus Calms the Storm

8:23-27pp — Mk 4:36-41; Lk 8:22-25
8:23-27Ref — Mt 14:22-33

Then he got into the boat and his disci-

iples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

8:11 Ps 107:3; Isa 49:12; 59:19; Mal 1:11
Lk 13:29
8:12 Mt 13:38
Mt 13:42,50;
22:13; 24:51;
25:30; Lk 13:28
8:13 Mt 9:22
8:16 Mt 4:23,
24
8:17 Mt 1:22
Isa 53:4
8:18 Mk 4:35
8:20 Da 7:13;
Mt 12:8,32,40;
16:13,27,28;
17:9; 19:28;
Mk 2:10; 8:31
8:22 Mt 4:19

a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."

9:2 Mt 9:13
Jn 16:33
Lk 7:48
9:3 Mt 26:65;
Jn 10:33
9:4 Ps 94:11;
Mt 12:25; Lk 6:8;
9:47; 11:17;
Jn 2:25
9:6 Mt 8:20
9:8 Mt 5:16;
15:31; Lk 7:16;
13:13; 17:15; 23:
47; Jn 15:8;
Ac 4:21; 11:18;
21:20
9:9 Mt 4:19
9:11 Mt 11:19;
Lk 5:30; 15:2;
19:7; Gal 2:15
9:13 Hos 6:6;
Mic 6:6-8

bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.

A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman

9:18-26pp — Mk 5:22-43; Lk 8:41-56

While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live."

Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. Just then a woman who had been suffering from bleeding for twelve years came up and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, he said, "Go away. The girl is dead, but asleep." But they laughed at him.

Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute

After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region.

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you."

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus Questioned About Fasting

9:14-17pp — Mk 2:18-22; Lk 5:33-39

Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the

18:42 Mt 15:28
9:23
2Ch 35:25;
Jer 9:17,18
9:24 Ac 20:10
Da 12:2;
Ps 76:5;
Jn 11:11-14;
Ac 7:60; 13:36;
1Co 11:30; 15:6,
18,20;
1Th 4:13-16
9:25 Mt 7:14
9:26 Lk 31;
Mt 4:24; 14:1;
Mk 1:28,45;
Lk 4:14,37; 5:15;
7:17
9:27 Mt 1:1;
12:23; 15:22;
20:30,31; 21:9;
15:22-42;
Mk 10:47
9:28 Ac 14:9

At 23, he had a life-changing experience with Christ while reading the Bible with friends.

and reported all this, including what happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

9:2-8pp — Mk 2:3-12; Lk 5:18-26

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat.

Some manuscripts Gerasenes; others Gerasa

8:26 Mt 6:30
Ps 65:7; 89:9;
107:29
8:28 Mt 4:24
8:29 Jdg 11:12;
2Sa 16:10;
1Ki 17:18;
Mk 1:24;
Lk 4:34; Jn 2:4
2Pe 2:4
8:34 Lk 5:8;
Ac 16:39
9:1 Mt 4:13
9:2 Mt 4:24

Luke identify the region by the capital city Gerasa, located about 35 miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee. Mark (5:2) and Luke identify the region by the capital city Gerasa, located about 35 miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee. Mark (5:2) and Luke identify the region by the capital city Gerasa, located about 35 miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee.

9:20 subject to bleeding for twelve years. See note on Mk 5:25-34



At 25, he married his
college sweetheart,
Lana.



At 27, they started
having their 6 kids,
now all grown!



Statio

At 31, Eric went into full-time ministry after creating a website for a Fortune 10 company.

▶ Trust Texaco

Branded Merchandise

Chevron Corporation

TRUST TEXACO



The Ranch

A place to seek God... and find Him!

- Home
- What's New!
- Eric's YouTube Channel!
- Daily Devotions
- Music
- Online Christian Writers Group
- Online Christian Music Group
- A Place to Pr...

Later that year (1995), he launched his own website to encourage people to seek God... and find Him.



Let's Keep in Touch!

 [Subscribe Here!](#)

Sign up for "What's New at The Ranch," and I'll keep you updated on new and helpful ways to stay strong in your faith!

Search The Ranch

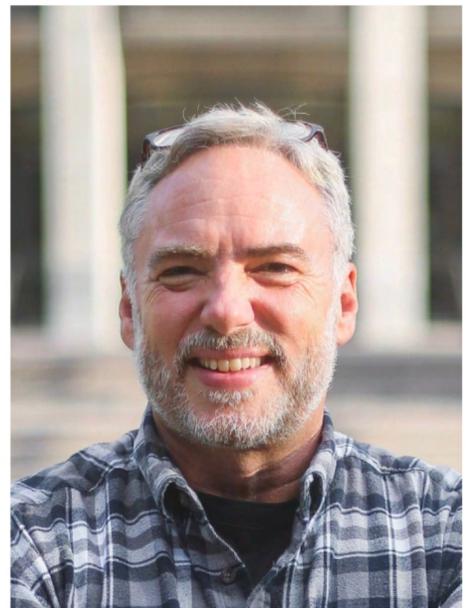
Welcome To The Ranch!

Welcome to *The Ranch*, a spiritual retreat center, right here on the Internet.

If you're tired, worn out or need a boost in your faith, you've come to the right place! This is a place where you can unwind, relax, and spend some time with God.

You can [read a devotion](#), [listen to music](#) or find a quiet place to pray.

And if you'd like to keep in touch, sign up for "[What's New at The Ranch](#)." I'll be glad to send you new and helpful ways to stay strong in your faith.



Through it all, I want you to remind you that God is here

On September 11, 1998, Eric
launched his first live-stream—
1 month before Billy Graham and
1 month after the Pope!



On September 11, 1998, Eric launched his first live-stream—1 month before Billy Graham and 1 month after the Pope!



For context, the video was the size of a postage stamp, but could be seen around the world. This was...

- 1 week after the birth of Google (September 4, 1998)
- 3 years before the iPod (2001)
- 5 years before Myspace (2003)
- 6 years before Facebook (2004)
- 7 years before Youtube (2005)
- 8 years before Spotify and Twitter (2006)
- 9 years before the iPhone (2007)
- 18 years before TikTok (2016)
- and 4 months after Mr. Beast was born!
(the current #1 YouTuber in the world!)

Web pastor spreads God's word on the Net

New breed of evangelist goes beyond the church to reach out to thousands of cyber-visitors a month

By Leslie Miller
USA TODAY

High-tech executives may put "Internet evangelist" on their business cards, but Eric Elder is the real deal.

"Some people would say I'm a Webmaster. ... Some would say I'm a Webcaster. Some would say I'm a Web pastor," he observes dryly. "But I like to say I'm doing what God's called me to do — reach out to others around me."

Elder, 37, is a new breed of evangelist — a high-tech, low-key minister who runs TheRanch.org, a spiritual retreat center that exists only in cyberspace.

Thousands of visitors a month stop by to chat, see half-hour streaming videos of Elder preaching, meditate with music and Scripture or read people's stories about how God has touched their lives.

"My particular message is that God is real, and he cares deeply about each one of us," Elder says. "I have this message I want to get out, and the Internet was made for delivering messages."

than men (47%).
"This is grass-roots people on the Web who are out there talking to their friends," says Keith Stonehocker, senior vice president of Christianity Today.

He presented survey findings Nov. 4 at a conference sponsored by The Internet Evangelism Coalition, a group made up of more than 30 Christian organizations including the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Campus Crusade for Christ International.

Almost half of those surveyed (49%) said their church has a Web page, and 18% said they personally know someone who has become a Christian as a result of online evangelism. For respondents under age 24, it was almost 25%.

"The last couple of years have seen just about every ministry organization recognize

that this is a long-term need, to have a presence on the World Wide Web," says Robby Richardson, director of Gospel Communications Network, one of the organizers. "This conference is focused on helping stimulate Christians to begin to realize that this tool can be used not just for resourcing other Christians, but for evangeliza-

Evangelism

Business:

TheRanch.org

Key technology:

Webcasting

Quote:

"What I do sparks their faith to life. From there on, the relationship with God just grows," says evangelist Eric Elder.



this in my life, but you look like someone I can talk to," he says. Elder's modest demeanor and sophisticated grasp of technology often disarm those who expect Bible-based evangelists to be all fire and brimstone, and his approach seems to appeal to those "who have been turned off by some of the louder people."

But he recognizes that his style doesn't work for everybody. "Some people need a football coach kind of guy to really kick 'em in gear, frankly. We all have different gifts and can reach a different segment of the population."

He also differs from many church-based preachers in that he avoids discussing denominational affiliations. He believes it tends to alienate people. "I try to remove any barriers," he says.

'What's important to us'

Another potential barrier is the blatant pitches for money that people often associate with televangelists. So Elder steers clear of fundraising on the site. Instead, he sends out a regular newsletter to those who request it, with updates about the ministry and its needs.

In 2000, USA Today called Eric "a new breed of evangelist" for his pioneering work online.

Real deal: Eric Elder operates a full-time ministry in Texas for a year, then says. "The Ranch taps into the idea that I want to get out, and the Internet was made for

they might type into search engines, but he notes that his goal, and the thrust of the site, "is to point people back to God and the gospel." "It's a matter of scaling back we live so we can do what's important to us." Elder is well aware of the limits

7,572 Opens ● 464 Clicks ●



In 2023, Eric reaches thousands of subscribers each week in countries around the world.

Eric's written dozens of books
(and helped others write theirs!)

A PERSONAL JOURNAL WITH 101 QUOTES ON PRAYER

ELDER

A PERSONAL JOURNAL WITH 101 QUOTES ON FAITH

ELDER

A PERSONAL JOURNAL WITH 101 QUOTES ON LOVE

ELDER

FIFTY SHADES OF GRACE ~ NICHOLAS J. DEERE

Loving God & Loving Gays: What's A Christian To Do? By Eric Elder

Cómo amar a Dios y a los gays: ¿Qué debe hacer un cristiano? por Eric Elder

365 DAILY DEVOTIONS WITH ERIC ELDER

ISRAEL: LESSONS FROM THE HOLY LAND ~ ERIC, KARIS & MAKARI ELDER

ROMANS: LESSONS IN RENEWING YOUR MIND ~ ERIC ELDER

His Name Was Nicholas ~ Full Script & Score ~ by Eric & Lana Elder

SAN NICOLAS: EL CREYENTE ~ ELDER Y PALOMINO

ST. NICHOLAS: THE BELIEVER ~ ERIC & LANA ELDER

PSALMS: LESSONS IN PRAYER ~ ERIC ELDER

My Stories of Faith ~ Eric Elder

WATER FROM MY WELL ~ ERIC ELDER

THE TOP 20 PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE ~ ERIC ELDER

JESUS: LESSONS IN LOVE ~ ERIC ELDER

EXODUS: LESSONS IN FREEDOM ~ ERIC ELDER

MAKING THE MOST OF THE DARKNESS ~ ERIC ELDER

ACTS: LESSONS IN FAITH ~ ERIC ELDER

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT SEX ~ ERIC ELDER

Living Life with a Capital "L" - by Eric Elder

He's recorded dozens of albums
(and helped others record theirs!)



He's turned one of his most popular books (about the real-life St. Nicholas) into an award-winning ballet (2018-2021)...



Winner “Best Ensemble Cast” Chicago Faith & Family Film Festival (2021)
Winner “Best Christian Feature Film” Istanbul Film Festival (2021)
(in Nicholas’s home country)

... a hit Christmas
Musical (2021) ...

**“Beautiful work. Love the music!
I hope you can take it far and wide!”**

BRIAN BIRD, co-producer of *Touched By An Angel*
and co-creator of Hallmark’s #1 original series,
When Calls the Heart

**“Truly Christian, in the best sense
of the word, with universal appeal.”**

JIM ROSENTHAL, former Communications Director
for the Archbishop of Canterbury and founder of
The St Nicholas Society



The image shows the interior of a grand, ornate theater. The seating area is filled with rows of red upholstered seats, arranged in a semi-circular pattern. The balconies are multi-tiered, featuring intricate woodwork and decorative railings. The ceiling is high and features a large, circular skylight or chandelier. The overall atmosphere is one of classic elegance and grandeur.

*and an Italian
"Puppet Opera"!
(Christmas, 2023)*



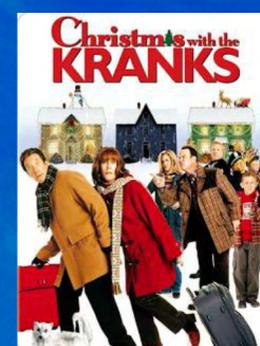
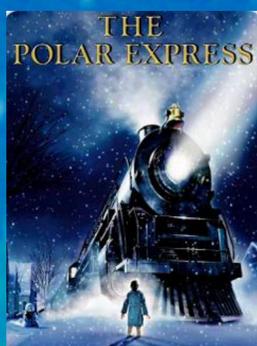
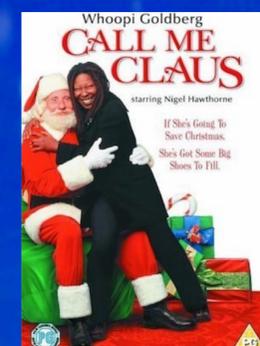
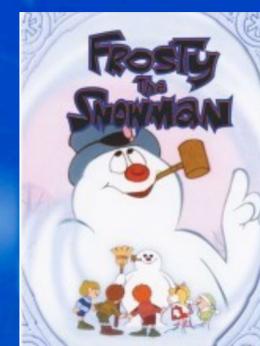
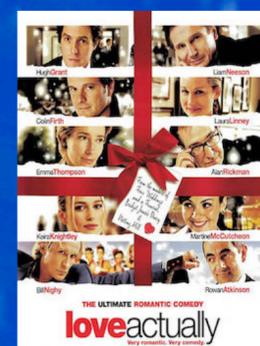
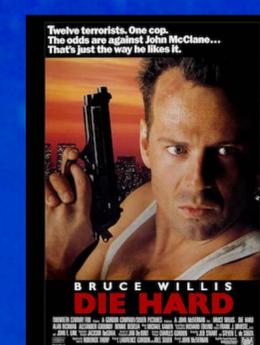
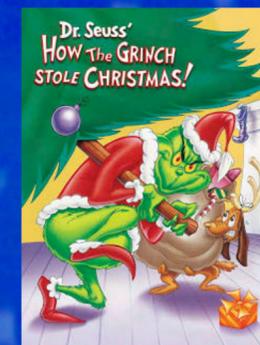
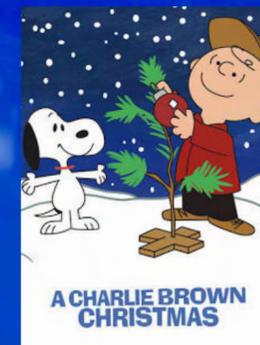
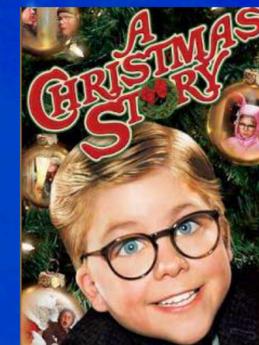
What's next? A MOVIE!

His Name Was Nicholas

**A new story for Christmas based
on the old story of St Nicholas**

by Eric & Lana Elder

Of the top Christmas classics,
almost none mention Christ.



*Enter "His Name Was Nicholas"
The true story of St. Nicholas
and his deep love for Christ.*





*A Christmas
classic to watch
year after year.*

“It’s a Wonderful Life” meets “The Nutcracker”

Proven audience appeal, support, and impact (based on the book, ballet + musical).



“The *Hamilton* of Christmas shows!”

JOHNATHON STEPHENS, audience member and musical fan

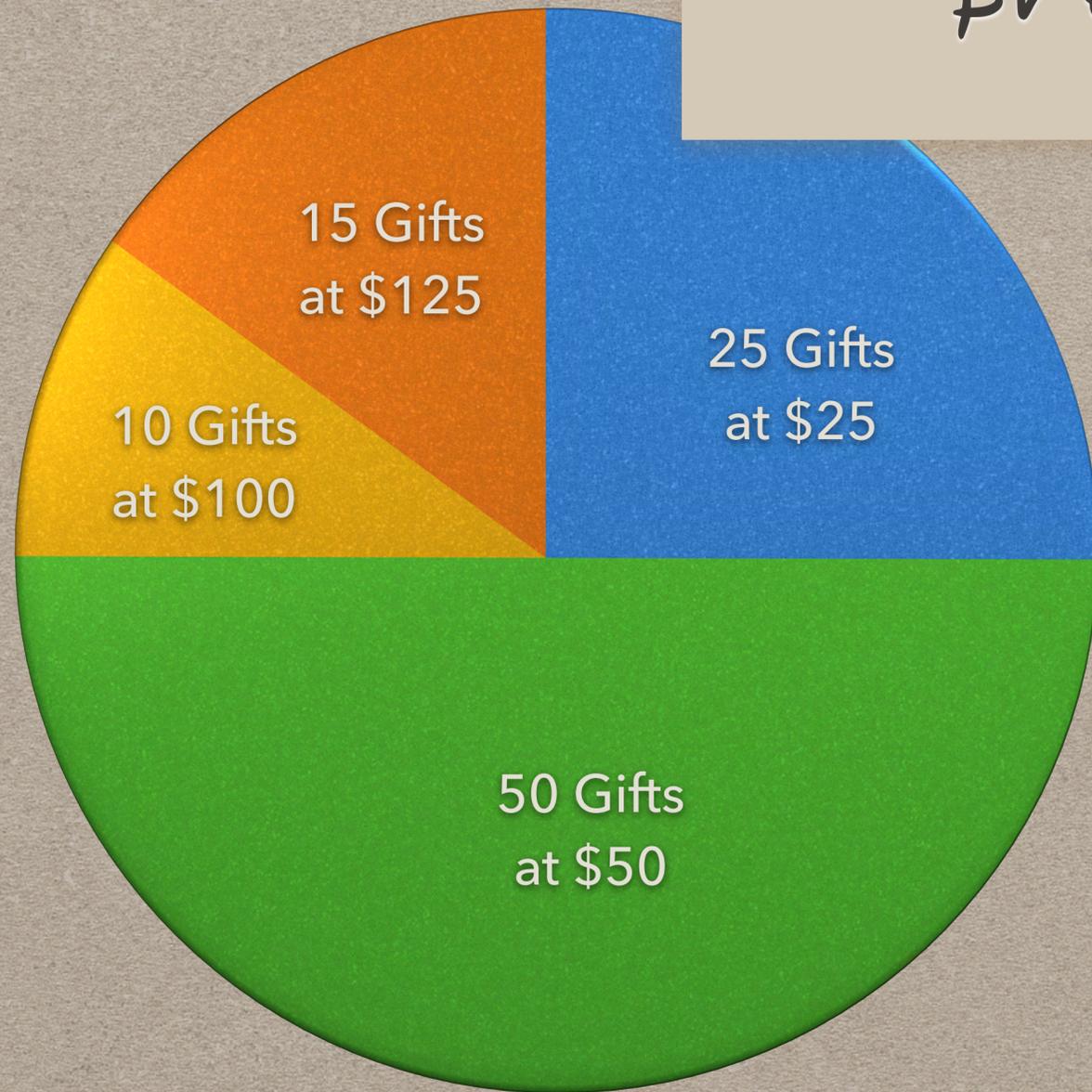
Watch the trailer for the ballet!
Listen to the music from the musical!
(90-seconds each)



What now?



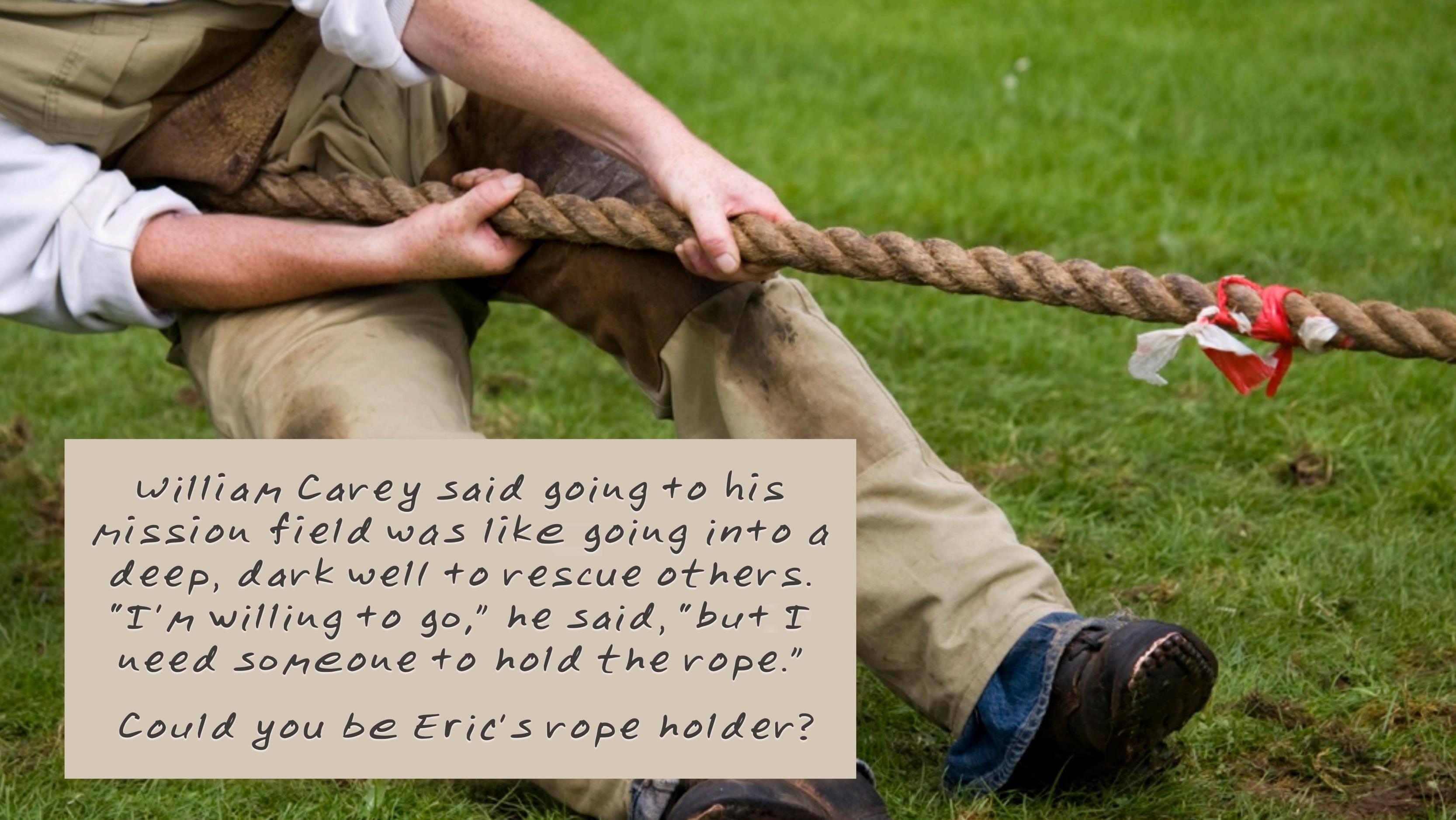
Here are Eric's 3 most pressing needs...



1. 100 Monthly Supporters
at \$25-\$125 per month

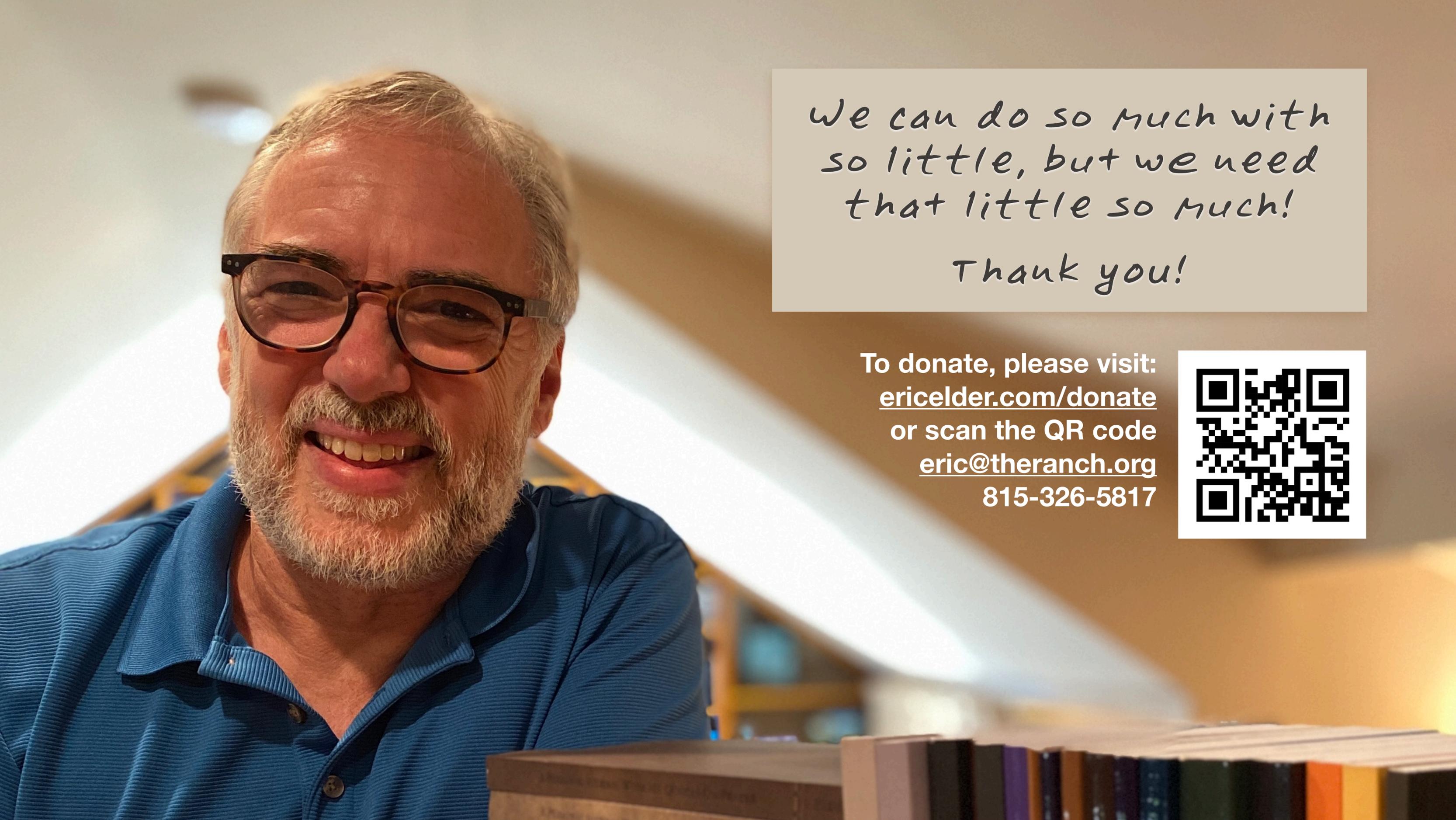
2. Full funding for the Italian
Puppet Opera: \$12,000

3. To seed the start-up costs for
the St. Nicholas movie: \$100,000

A close-up photograph of a person's hands and arms holding a thick, braided rope. The person is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and tan cargo pants. The rope is held taut across the frame. In the background, there is a green grassy field. A red and white tag is attached to the rope further down.

William Carey said going to his mission field was like going into a deep, dark well to rescue others. "I'm willing to go," he said, "but I need someone to hold the rope."

Could you be Eric's rope holder?



We can do so much with
so little, but we need
that little so much!

Thank you!

To donate, please visit:
ericelder.com/donate
or scan the QR code
eric@theranch.org
815-326-5817

