

SONrise search team,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Eric Joppa and for the last 20+ years my life have been characterized by one word: unlikely. I am an unlikely husband, unlikely father, unlikely Christian and unlikely leader. Let me share why I think that is the case.

First, I met Jesus 22 years ago and learned that not only was God not angry with me, but He loved me and had a plan for me. I had thought it incredibly unlikely that God would choose a broken abused boy to love. But He did. I began serving in ministry soon after meeting Jesus. I thought it would be incredibly unlikely that I would ever be a pastor. But God called me into the church and I am so glad He did. I thought it would be unlikely that I would ever see ministries grow through me. After all, I am a mess. But God uses messes to do great things. I pray he continues to use me.

I met my wife, Kelly, in 2001 and we married in 2002. She was and remains way out of my league. She is the most hospitable, capable, brilliant and beautiful person I have ever known. I thought it would be incredibly unlikely that she would say yes to me. But she did. If you have a chance to meet her, you can high five me. I had a neglectful mother and abusive heroin addict as a father growing up. I thought for sure this would make me a terrible dad. It would be unlikely that I would be able to love my children well. God has given me the best two kids in the world, Nathan (10) and Leah (7), to make it easy for me to love them. It is unlikely that I would be this blessed, but I am.

I asked some friends to describe me in one word so you could have a better idea of who I am. Here are a few of the best of them...

Passionate, Visionary, Strategic, Enthusiastic, Witty, Energetic, Talented, Gregarious, Charismatic, Intelligent, Loving, Resilient, Communicator, Intentional, Teachable, Real, Humble, Funny, Kind, Insightful, Uplifting, Determined, Trustworthy, Zealous, Creative, Giving, Loyal

I am a creative leader who is focused on enabling the success of those I lead. I love to build teams and ministries that will long outlive my involvement. I do not believe that I am indispensable. Rather, I think my role is to build up others to the point that they can lead. I have long felt that effective leaders build effective teams, and I have tried to exemplify that principle. Over the last 20 years of ministry, these are the most consistent expressions of my ministry...

Vision - I think God gives every leader who seeks it a vision for what he is asking them to build or do. I am constantly looking ahead at what God has in store.

Strategic Thinking and Development - I believe that vision is incomplete without a strategy to accomplish it. That's why I believe so deeply in creating the framework for ministry to happen.

Discipleship - I am passionate about people coming to know Jesus, but I believe we must pour into new believers and equip them to reach even more people. The only way is to grow people into maturity. As a result, I am always pouring into men and younger believers.

Dynamic Communication - The Word of God is life-giving and life changing. I believe it must be shared with humor, passion, clarity and application so that people are able to live out what the bible teaches.

If you look over my resume, you will see these expressions. I look forward to meeting you in person and hearing about you, your ministry opportunity and to discover the possibility of serving Christ together. I will furnish as many references as you wish upon request.

With great hope,
Eric Joppa