

# Courage to Step Out of Our Comfort Zone

## The Challenge

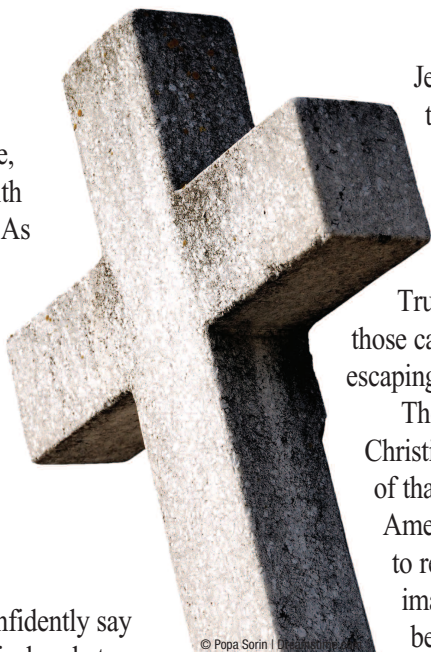
We all have our comfort zone, certain types of people, places, ideas or activities with which we are comfortable. As Christians, we may be accustomed to a certain type of church or style of worship or preaching.

But what if God were to take us out of our comfort zone? Would we be okay with that?

## The Foundation

If not always, we can confidently say that many times that is precisely what God asks of us, the courage to step outside of our comfort zone. He raised Moses in a palace so he could serve in the desert; He raised Joseph in a desert so he could serve in a palace.<sup>1</sup> I'm reminded of Daniel refusing to eat the king's food<sup>2</sup> and of Paul standing in the midst of the Areopagus.<sup>3</sup>

And, of course, I'm reminded of



Jesus, going against the religious “norm” of the day.<sup>4</sup> From city to city He went preaching God’s Truth, in some of those cases barely escaping with his life.<sup>5</sup>

There is no question Christians have lost some of that boldness here in America, and we need to regain it. Can you imagine what it would be like if all believers

stood with the same boldness as Daniel, Joseph or Moses?

Psalms 27:1 says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” If we really took these words to heart, we would confidently answer the call of the Lord no matter what He asks of us.

1 Ravi Zacharias, *The Grand Weaver*, p.60 (Zondervan 2007).

2 Daniel 1:8.

3 Acts 17:22.

4 Matthew 21:12.

5 Mark 11:18-19.

## The Examples

Marian Ward and Matt Barber are two examples of this within Concerned Women for America (CWA).

Marian was a typical high school student when she was called to step outside of her comfort zone and pray in the name of Jesus at a high school football game. A judge had ordered marshals to be present at football games to arrest anyone “violating the law” (i.e., praying in the name of Jesus).

Imagine being taken into the principal’s office as a 17-year-old honor student to be “reminded” of the “no reference to a deity” policy and the consequences within the “student handbook” if you were to violate that policy.

Many suggested to Marian that she just comply and not get in trouble. Instead, Marian fought the policy, eventually winning her case in court.

“In the name of Jesus, Amen,” ended her prayer. Today, Marian serves as one of CWA’s Legislative Liaisons.

Matt Barber wrote a column for a friend’s website espousing the Biblical view of marriage as it related to the promotion of same-sex “marriage.” An employee with a clean record, he was suddenly fired by a Fortune 500 insurance company after they learned of the “intolerant” column.

Yes, promoting Biblical truths can

get you fired in America. But should we stop standing up for God’s Word? Matt certainly hasn’t. He responded to God’s call to step outside his comfort zone, and today he serves as CWA’s Policy Director for Cultural Issues.

## The Call

Have you been called to step outside of your comfort zone? Is there something happening in your community that you know goes against God’s teaching and yet you’ve remained silent?

Perhaps it’s time for you to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before you and seize the courage to step outside that comfort zone. ■

*“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” 1 Peter 3:14*

*By Mario Diaz, Esq., Policy Director for Legal Issues*

### PRAY

For Christians in America to stand for Biblical Truth.

### PRAISE

For those who have stepped outside of their comfort zones to follow God.

### ACT

Seek God’s will and ask Him for the courage to stand for Truth.