



Dangerous: Engaging the People and Places No One Else Will

Caleb Bislow

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One Man's Extreme Faith Challenges Believers to Live More Radical Lives

From a warring tribal village in Africa to a Rob Zombie concert to a Guatemalan prison to a bombed out church in Sudan, Caleb Bislow shares firsthand stories of how God is working around the world. Some see Caleb's life and faith as extreme, but to him, sharing God's love in the most dangerous and despised places in the world is simply living a life of surrender.

With humbleness and even some humor, Caleb inspires readers to step out of their comfort zones and take godly risks wherever they are. Rounding out the book are appendixes of organizations to join or support and specific prayer needs around the world.

Dangerous: Engaging the People and Places No One Else Will Details

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Jessalyn says

DANGEROUS: Engaging The People And Places No One Else Will

In 2005 Caleb Bislow decided safety was overrated. Realizing there is nowhere on earth beyond God's love, He became what might be called an "extreme missionary," traveling to some of the world's most dangerous places. From red-light districts in Asia to Guatemalan prisons to warring tribal villages in Africa. Caleb Witnessed God's light break thru the darkness again and again. In this book Caleb shares his stories. Some are funny, Some are scary, Some are horrifying, But all of them are inspiring. He challenges readers to listen for God's voice and be ready to follow where he leads us. Along with the stories, he coaches the reader by sharing how he makes decisions and a priority checklist. He also gives practical advice as to how to get involved with each of the people groups he shares about in case one of them touches your heart. He cautions that to be a missionary, you do need to have some more formal training. I thought his training program for Unusual Soldiers was very interesting. It demonstrated that even the shy and timid are candidates to travel into dark, dangerous places to minister to others. This book is a good challenge for any christian who needs to get out of their comfort zone. While the book's radical approach may not be necessarily for me (Unless God has other plans), Believers will be reminded that this world is temporary and heaven and hell are eternal realities.

*Book has been provided courtesy of Bethany House a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Linda Walters says

Caleb Bislow knew from an early age that he marched to the beat of a different drummer. Even when he received Jesus Christ, he knew his calling wasn't going to be the normal, comfortable, business as usual walk. Its about Radical Evangelism; and many stories of his and others experiences with it are shared. Its a look into what worked and a few that didn't.

He has also included in the back of the book, information that will get you started on your way, things to explore if you're ready to go there and have confirmations that God is calling you into those Dangerous places.

This book is about Out of the Box (13th Floor) spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I like the fact that not only does the author point to the fact that we need Boldness and Bold unusual ways but also that we need to be discerning and have wisdom in what we are doing. In the beginning of the book, the author cautions some ways to start out in wisdom and with accountability to other seasoned Christians. If heeded, this should limit taking unwise risks and causing more damage than good. Throughout the book, are many references on how to more information on what God is drawing your heart to. Caleb speaks often of being "Unusual Soldiers" for God.

Redemptive Bridges was an interesting insight. The fact that Bridges to Christ can be found in every culture and can be expressed in a loving way to the listeners.

Not only "Bridges to Christ" but the Replacing a Come to Me mentality with a Go to them Mentality", were

phrases that caught my attention.

I received a FREE copy of this Book from Bethany House (through Bakers Publishing Group) as part of their book review program, and I am under no obligation to write a positive review.

James says

When I read the introduction of *Dangerous* by Caleb Bislow, I thought I was going to dislike this book. He talks about dirt-bikes and extreme sports and living a risky Christian life. I was afraid that this was just another version of testosterone-infused faith. I didn't feel like reading another 'tough guy' talk about the need to reach out to people with an MMA level intensity. Thankfully, there was more to it than that. Bislow does talk about danger and living a 'risky' Christian life, but he isn't describing risk for the sake of risk (even if he is a bit of a daredevil). Being 'dangerous' is about reaching out and engaging people in places where no one else is willing to go—the dark, dangerous, despised places. Bislow describes this as the '13th floor,' referencing both the places we avoid (many high-rises do not have a 13th floor) and Hebrew 13:13 which says, "Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore."

Bislow issues the challenge to go to the unreached, the broken, the war-torn, the sick and the dying. His desire is to shake us free from our complacency. He wants us to have a Christianity that is more like William Wallace than Fred Rogers. And he has experiences that testify to the sort of risky witness he's advocating. The book is chock-full of stories of places he's taken profound risks in sharing the love of Jesus with others. Many of these are abroad on mission in Africa. But you do not need to go abroad to take gospel-sized risks. He also has stories of evangelism and service at home.

There are several things I like about Bislow's approach. He runs a missions training program in Nebraska called *Stranded* where he strands people in the wilderness in teams, recruits local farmers to play the part of a harassing tribe and helps missions-minded people begin to take some personal risks which parallel some of the dangers they'll face abroad. It is sort of like *Survivor* but no one gets voted off the island. Secondly, I like that Bislow comes across as a regular guy. He shares about places he's taken profound risk (i.e. sharing the gospel in villages where they beat the last evangelist who came to town); yet he also shares how fearful he was at the prospect. This isn't a book about how courageous he is, it is about how faithful God when we take risks in faith. Third, I appreciate that he upholds the need for evangelism and social-justice. He wants us to share our faith, but he also wants us to serve the outcast, the broken and downtrodden.

There are things I could criticize about this book. As I heard story after story of missional encounters in different settings, I wondered if Bislow's approach was more hit-and-run evangelism, than long-standing-commitment to a particular place. Moving from dangerous place to dangerous place, is exhilarating and exciting. Standing with people for the long haul is hard, mundane and, sometimes, boring. Sometimes standing up for the vulnerable and committing to a people and a place looks more like Mr. Rogers (the late ordained Presbyterian minister who dedicated his life to advocating and nurturing children) than it does William Wallace. I like what he says about risk, but had questions about other aspects of his approach.

But this book is not the sort of book that is designed to impart a vision for ministry in the shape of Caleb Bislow's ministry. This is a book that is designed to challenge others to step out and do something. Questions about ministry approach are important, but these questions can also be excuses for in-action (i.e. I don't like

his approach, so I won't do anything). I think the prime message about stepping out and going 'outside the camp' to share the love of Christ with others, is a commission any follower of Christ needs to hear and act upon. This is the kind of book that you give to high school graduates and college students who you are encouraging to stake their lives on what really matters. To that end, I recommend the book. There are still too many Braveheart quotes and extreme sports analogies for my taste. I give it 3.5 stars.

Thank you to Bethany House for providing me a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Mark says

This has got to be one of the most interesting non-fiction books I have read. Caleb tells how he felt called to go into the less safe places of the world to reach people with the Gospel. The book is filled with stories of his trips to places most of us would never dream of going, and of how God worked through him and the people he went with.

The book is inspiring, exciting, interesting, challenging, and convicting. It shows that the Christian life doesn't have to be boring, and that if we truly surrender to God, He may take us into places that aren't safe, but He is always in control.

Dangerous is the kind of book that makes me want to do more, though hopefully not to the extent Caleb has. I believe God calls people according to what they are capable of and the talents they have, and after reading this book, I can honestly say I could never accomplish the things for God that Caleb has, but his stories challenge me to do more, to listen for God in even the small things, and how important it is to do even the smallest thing if we feel God urging us to do it.

I really enjoyed the book, and recommend it to anyone who wants to be challenged and who wants to read exciting stories of how God is reaching people in the most remote parts of the earth.

Winston says

The story of one man's risky missions for God!!

Nikole Hahn says

Dangerous by Caleb Bislow is a book that will challenge the nominal American Christian into action.

Much like The Insanity of God by Nick Ripken, Dangerous isn't the usual dry missionary letter aimed at filling an obligation. Caleb demonstrates a fearlessness in writing of his experiences in getting to his missionary program, "Unusual Soldiers." Endorsed by legendary Bear Grylls as, "A book for aspiring heroes, about real heroes, by a quiet hero," Dangerous is a how-to book in becoming a missionary.

Dangerous begins with Section One: In Search of Unusual Soldiers. I wouldn't have begun the book this way when the description on the back of the book says, "In 2005, Caleb Bislow decided safety was overrated." The first section speaks about Caleb's program, Unusual Soldiers. While this wasn't uninteresting, it certainly slowed down the book. In Section Two, the tension escalates and never slows down until the last sentence of the book.

Caleb writes about his experiences. He drained his savings and quit his job to go on a short term missions trip to Africa with just a backpack, Bible, and a few changes in clothing to sleep in a mud hut with a local and visit dangerous and unreached villages in Africa. In returning home, he felt that a short term missions trip wasn't enough. People were brought to Christ in these villages, but no one stuck around to disciple them. So he worked with another ministry while living in his parent's home as he and his wife began a family. Eventually, their financial situation improves and Caleb lands a job with a ministry who enthusiastically takes on his vision.

The rest of the book speaks about Caleb's work with an African people and the raw work of a missionary. I like how he outlines the different ways both domestically and internationally how a Christian can turn from living the nominal Christian life as an American to living a die-hard life of a believer serving God's purpose. Caleb also speaks about his program, Unusual Soldiers, as he trains people to survive in the most dangerous places on earth. He speaks about the amount of unreached people groups and on follow-through. This means not just popping into someone's life to change it, but making sure the person or people changed get disciplined and connected with proper teaching.

Dangerous has haunted me since closing the book. I gave this book four stars only because of the slow beginning. It starts slow and becomes very quickly an intense and resource-filled book.

*Book given by publisher to review.

Maryjo says

Won in a Goodreads first reads giveaway. Review to come.

Trevor Pearson says

<http://bindblottyandcajole.com/2015/0...>

Gina Burgess says

At first, I thought this was going to be sort of a missions story on steroids. I was not even close. This is far more than a missions story. This is a story about God going about His business using His children who are ready, willing, and able to listen to His urgings and obey His commands.

I have never been so moved reading a nonfiction as I was devouring this book. I read it in one sitting... I couldn't put it down. My heart, my mind, and my soul have been stirred beyond imagining.

This should be a "must study" for every youth group, and every church group.

Yes, it is graphic in places, but God's work is not always G-rated. The hurting, the downtrodden, the lost are not found in clinically clean places, sitting around waiting for some good Christian to come along and share the Gospel. Jesus ate with the prostitutes, the demon-possessed, and the tax collectors. We should do no less. Funny how Christians think setting on pews, and hatching out nothing is doing God's will. Where is the fruit???

Caleb Bislow listened to God's voice, and obeyed the summons, "As you go make disciples." He followed Paul's example by discipling a few then challenging them to "Go make disciples." Only Caleb did it with some dangerous people in despicable places.

Any problems in your church?

Complacent church members -- tell them some of these stories.

Shy youth -- challenge them with some of these Bible verses and the illustrative true stories.

Dare devil young men -- let them read of some Dark, Dangerous, and Despised Places... Places that burdened the heart of Caleb Bislow.

Tina says

Did not finish. This just wasn't for me. I wasn't sure what I was expecting, but I didn't enjoy it as I was reading, so I decided not to force myself to finish.

Melissa Jill says

This book was written by a friend of mine who I met during a discipleship training experience through Kingdom Building Ministries 14 years ago. We spent a summer learning and doing ministry together and during that time, traveled to Thailand for a month. It was so much fun to read this book and hear about what God has been doing in his life since then! God clearly has a call on Caleb's life to take the message of this book to the world, and I love the humble spirit in which he is doing just that. I think that's the thing I liked most about this book. The topic of taking risks for Christ could easily go to a very hyped, adrenaline-driven, ego-based place, but in every story that Caleb shares about the dark and dangerous places he has been for Christ, everything is undergirded with listening to and relying on Christ. We need Him desperately and can do nothing of lasting value apart from him.

Some quotes that I want to remember from the book:

"Following Christ is not a detour around risk but a willingness to embrace it."

"That day I learned to never think, God can't use me. Or, their heart is too hard, their past is too bad, or their country is too closed. We feel that way sometimes, often about family members or friends. We should never mark anyone as unreachable, because we serve a God who knows how to do the impossible."

"I think (this is why) we don't see great movements of the Spirit in America. Surrender is a tough thing to comprehend when you live in the land of plenty. Losing control of our lives isn't exactly appealing to us. But

blessings come to those who sacrifice the desires of their independent spirit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

"Penn Jillette, a comedian and devout atheist.....shared, 'I've always said that I don't respect people who DON'T proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there is a heaven and a hell and that people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, or whatever, and you think that, uh, it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward...Uh, how much do you have to hate somebody not to proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that? I mean, if I believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that a truck was coming at you, and you didn't believe it...there is a certain point where I'd tackle you, and this is more important than that.'"

Regarding the Israelites fear and lack of faith in entering the promised land and having to wander in the desert for 40 years:

"I wonder how many of us miss out on God's plan because we let fear stand between us and God's dream for our lives."

"I've decided that every new decade I hit is a new season of new opportunities. And I hope to start every new decade by looking in the mirror saying, 'Let's do this. I'm in my prime.' When I turn forty, I am not over the hill and ready to be done. I am in my prime! When my clock strikes sixty, I am in my prime. When I am eighty, even if I'm walking around with a catheter strapped to my leg, I hope to pray, "Lord give me another mountain, because I am in my prime!"... Your prime season of life has nothing to do with the age of your body. That is what is so exciting about following Christ, because with the Holy Spirit inside of us we never become has-beens. We always have a season of ministry ahead of us until we hit the grave."

Johanna says

Caleb Bislow goes into some of the most dangerous places in the world, sharing the light of the gospel and bringing hope to thousands. From war-torn Africa, to red-light districts in Asia, Caleb is helping to bring people to Christ in places where most missionaries wouldn't dare to go, as well as training others to do the same, giving them the title of "Unusual Soldiers".

Filled with incredible stories of those whose lives were touched, and forever changed, by submitting themselves completely to the call of Christ to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation", this book is moving and deeply inspiring.

Dangerous is about facing your fears and learning to trust in God completely, allowing Him unfettered access to ourselves to complete His perfect will in our lives, and using us to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Though traveling the world to share the gospel may not seem like the right fit for every one, Bislow explains that you don't have to go to the ends of the earth to find people who haven't been reached. Many places here in America are considered "taboo" or just plain too uncomfortable to talk about Christ, but he encourages us, if we feel God's calling, to visit these places, unafraid, and share the love of Christ.

For those who feel the call to help Bislow in his efforts, the book includes lists of organizations that deal with ministry in various places throughout the world, with a list of the 10 most religiously oppressed countries, as well as ministries that deal with specific groups of people such as prisoners and victims of

abuse and trafficking.

I cannot imagine the amount of courage it would take to do what Caleb Bislow, as well as the teams that he trains, do on a regular basis. The terror of stepping into the unknown, in regions of the world known for physical violence and human suffering, would be enough to deter even the most determined of people, and yet these people do it with grace and love, knowing that only the gospel of Christ can bring lasting change to these regions.

An incredibly inspiring book that will leave you hungry to do more for the Lord. Highly recommend!

I received a free copy of this book through Bethany House in exchange for an honest review.

Check out this review on my blog:EpicBookQuest.wordpress.com

Don says

This is sensitively written and balanced in thought. It is one of the few books of its nature that challenges without guilt.

Bethany says

I am always excited to come across a Christian book that calls us to live radically for Jesus, and this book is exactly that kind of book. Caleb Bislow is a man who tries to live a life dangerously for the Lord, he is not willing to settle for the apathetic lifestyle that so many of us do, but he tries to live outside of his comfort zone. In this book Caleb tells us of his trips to Sudan and many other dangerous places and how he shared the gospel, oftentimes with amazing results.

I highly recommend this book to everyone, because in reality we all need to get out of our comfort zone and live dangerously, and that is exactly what this book calls us to do.

I received a copy of this book from Bethany House publishers, but the opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Noelle Walsh says

Well, I can say that, for a book involving strong Christianity, I didn't feel like I was being force-fed it. While I feel I will look into the faith a little more, I doubt I will be spreading the Gospel anywhere, I would say that I would recommend this book to my religious friends or to anyone I thought might be interested in reading it. While reading it, I did find it a bit inspiring, because Caleb Bislow came off as a courageous person, daring to go where angels feared to tread, so to speak.

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