

THE

MY CALLING TO THE NEW
HARDCORE MOVEMENT OF FAITH

UNUSUAL
SUSPECT

STEPHEN
BALDWIN

with MARK TABB



Ya' Can't Say That. Yura Christian.

Around the time I first started working on this book I went to the Luis Palau Association President's Conference in Bend, Oregon. We were doing a *Livin' It Live* event in the same town the next day, so I invited my friend Zorro along for the ride. Zorro is the drummer for his lifelong friend Lenny Kravitz. I wanted him to see what we do in one of our live events as well as introduce him to Kevin Palau and some of my other friends in the Palau organization. But first we went to the President's Conference banquet along with fifty or so potential financial donors and ministry volunteers. Zorro's been leading people to Christ for twenty years, so I thought this was an organization he would click with. Now during this very prestigious President's Conference, Luis Palau shares with these donors and potential donors everything that's going on in the ministry. Then I get up and talk about *Livin' It* and how God is using it.

In the middle of the whole thing Zorro stands up, heads toward the platform and says, "I know I'm not supposed to do this, but can I say something?" I look at Luis and he looks at me and gives a very enthusiastic "Sure." Luis loves people who are young and vibrant and in love with Jesus. So this drummer for Lenny

Kravitz gets up there and starts talking about how all these people in the room have to get excited about what God is doing. Then he says, "Part of my evangelism strategy is to get people excited so that when I talk about the power of God it will scare the crap out of them." Now, when Zorro used the word "crap" in a room full of very conservative, very proper Christians at a Luis Palau President's Conference, you could hear a pin drop. The first thought I had as I listened to him was, "You can't say that to this crowd. You're a Christian." But by the time he was finished, this crowd of very conservative Christians gave Zorro a standing ovation because everything he had to say was dead on right, even if he used the word crap.

WHO SAYS I CAN'T?

Of course Zorro shouldn't have said the word "crap." Everyone knows that. Or should he? I'm constantly running into people who tell me I can't say or do certain things because I am a Christian, and I'm sick of it. Now I'm not saying I should be able to walk around dropping F-bombs. I get that. But hey man, where does it say in the Bible I can't use the word crap? Is it a slang word? Does that mean I shouldn't be able to use it? *You know you are sinning when you use that word, Stephen. That's the language of compromise.* Hey, guess what, I don't believe using the word crap is a sin. What do you have to say to me now?

Why the hang-up on words, anyway? The word bitch refers to a female dog. Does that mean it is off limits for me? Is it a sin for me to use a word that refers to a female dog? I don't know. And ass. An ass is a donkey. Jesus rode one. The King James Bible uses the word, but am I not supposed to? Why? Because someone declared it to be a bad word? Lighten up. That's my message to the body of Christ in America. LIGHTEN UP! If the first thing that comes to your mind when I tell you to lighten up is, *That guy's a sinner*, then you should put this book down because I'm not writing it for you. I'm writing it for people who