

Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, A.D. 2025

Dear Friends of *Grace Family Ministries*!

**“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28 NKJV**

**The tragic assassination of Christian conservative activist, Charlie Kirk, has ignited massive cultural conversation and controversy that will define a generation.** Just as Pearl Harbor & WWII defined the Greatest Generation, JFK’s assassination & the Sexual Revolution defined the Boomers, the fall of the Berlin Wall & the USSR defined Gen. X, and 9/11 & the War on Terror defined the Millennials, this horrifying tragedy will define Gen. Z and shape the future trajectory of our country. Just as the martyrdom of Jim Elliot and his friends in the jungles of Ecuador back in the 1950s compelled thousands to go to the mission fields of the world, may God’s Spirit use Charlie’s untimely death to ignite a zeal and Godward passion in this generation. May they be raised up to stand with resolute biblical conviction for the truth, righteousness, and moral sanity that has historically made America great, builds civilization, fuels human flourishing, and advances the cause of Christ to the ends of the earth.

**Charlie Kirk understood the practical relevance of eternal truths rooted in the biblical worldview and gospel of Christ. This is why he courageously communicated them to this generation by connecting them to the culturally relevant issues of our day.** This is likely the most compelling dynamic of his life and legacy. In his short lifespan, God used him to perhaps make a greater impact for Christ than most Christians, including pastors, do in their entire lives of 75+ years. May God give us such courage to do similarly, regardless of the season of our lives, for His glory and the good of multitudes.

### ← Looking Back

Prior to this tragedy last month, my family and I were amid a two-week ministry adventure trip to SD, NE/IA, & MO. The original Grace Family Conference in Tabor, SD was, once again, heavily attended with a total of 169 showing up throughout the weekend hosted by the saints of Grace Bible Church. My sermon, *“Raising Warrior Poets & Maidens of Virtue”* fit well with the Medieval dress up theme on Saturday night and will be uploaded to GFM’s YouTube channel ASAP. Lakeview Bible Church in Carter Lake, IA (just outside of Omaha, NE) hosted us for several days en route to a weekend of ministry at St. Louis Bible Fellowship.

The day after Charlie Kirk’s assassination, it was Patriot Day (9/11), and I was reading my One Year Bible while walking the church parking lot when a police officer drove by. After circling the building, he pulled into the parking lot and got out of his vehicle. This thirty-something year old young man was a veteran officer with a Catholic background and really struggling to find hope amid the tragedy. As he was looking for some encouragement, I opened my pocket Bible that once belonged to the late Dr. Eddie Bedore, founding director of Berean Bible Institute, when he served as a missionary in Kenya, East Africa. The text that I read aloud to this disillusioned officer, who regularly sees violence on the job, was **Isaiah 40:28-31**. While we walked through the Scripture, I drew connections to the cross of our Savior along with biblical manhood and pointed out that this is exactly what Charlie Kirk was doing as he called out young men and called them up to leadership, marriage, and family. During our conversation, my oldest son, Timothy, walked up and the officer cracked a joke about them receiving a phone call about a strange guy outside the church building. Even with

### **GFM’s 10 Biblical Convictions**

- 1. Sovereign Majesty of GOD’s Holiness**
- 2. Sufficiency & Preaching of GOD’s Word**
- 3. Supremacy of GOD’s Grace for Life & Ministry**
- 4. Security of GOD’s Saints in Christ**
- 5. Solid Theology of GOD’s Design for the Family**
- 6. Singing of GOD’s Praise & Inter-Generational Worship**
- 7. Scheduled Priorities of GOD’s Time Restructured**
- 8. Salt & Light Moral Back-Pressure of GOD’s Truth**
- 9. Stalwart Faithfulness of GOD’s Providence in History**
- 10. Stewardship Responsibility of GOD’s Mission**

some levity, our conversation was sobering due to the urgency of our national crisis. Before going our separate ways, Timothy led in prayer for the officer with the hope that his heart was indeed genuinely encouraged. Please pray for him as Pastor Ken Sudduth reaches out to follow up with this law enforcement officer. **Thanks!**

Just days after Charlie Kirk's untimely death, we found ourselves in the St. Louis area ministering at the Fall Retreat/Picnic of Bible Fellowship before joining the saints for worship at their historic church building in the city. "*Generational Faithfulness in a Pagan Culture*" was my sermon from Daniel chapter one which focused on the dead serious urgency of family discipleship. It is already uploaded to GFM's YouTube channel along with several poignant excerpts that address this national tragedy. Many thanks to Pastor & Mrs. Rick Owsley and the saints for the opportunity to minister in Word and song as we gathered for the worship of Him who is worthy of all praise. **Once again, thank you for upholding GFM in prayer especially amid travels.**

After an extended trip, reentry back home can be a challenge. Unloading our van, unpacking bags, doing laundry, catching up on mail, bills, and grocery shopping takes some time. Perhaps the best part of being back home here in Indianapolis is sleeping in our own beds and reconnecting with one another as we reflect on the myriads of blessings throughout the recent ministry adventure. **There's no place like home!**

Paul and Mary Balbach are family friends whose Grace & Truth Ministry hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Bible conference the following weekend which featured several speakers including myself. While most of us went north for a short weekend, two of our sons stayed home to hammer down on their course work with Berean Bible Institute and to minister at Grace Gospel Church in Linton, IN. Both of my sermons from that event should also be uploaded to GFM's YouTube channel for you to enjoy and share with others – "*Before & After: The Practical Difference of Jesus Christ on the Heart, Church, & Culture*" from 1 Corinthians 6:9-12 and "*Accepted in the Beloved: The Heart Transforming Power of Family Identity*" from Ephesians 1:1-7.

That same weekend, we're also grateful for the opportunity to have joined the saints at Grace Bible Church in Bowler, WI for worship on Sunday. Many thanks to Pastor & Mrs. Wes Barteck and the saints for the opportunity to minister a challenge from the Word, share an update on GFM's mission, and to exalt the Lord in song. This precious assembly was very kind to our sons this summer as they would worship there on Sundays being near Northern Grace Youth Camp and the home of two other board members besides myself.

### **Looking Ahead →**

We're excited because this month features two Grace Family Conferences at GBC Springfield, OH and Coopersville Bible Church near Grand Rapids, MI. The former features several different speakers and is shaping up to rival the original GFC for attendance as word is getting out and people are inviting friends who have a heart for family discipleship. The latter will have Pastor Joel Finck and I speaking on the theme "*Family, On Purpose! Intentionally Advancing the Cause of Christ Right at Home.*"

In MI, there will be a pre-conference luncheon for pastors & ministry leaders (& spouses) focused on "*Parenting & Family Discipleship on Purpose!*" with Terrah (& Oscar) Quesada. As the daughter of Chuck & Joy Befus, long time missionaries to Costa Rica with Grace Ministries Intl., she wrote a book called "*Nine Kids, On Purpose*" that recounts seven biblical principles that shaped their family's faith, purpose, and vision. Our prayer is that this seminar/workshop will not only introduce the heart and vision of the Befus family legacy but also equip God's servants with practical ministry skills to do similarly in their arenas of influence.

**Thank You!** Through all the miles on the road and open doors of opportunity to minister around the country, we're grateful for friends like you that pray for GFM and our mission of "*Advancing the Cause of Christ to the Ends of the Earth... Beginning Right at Home.*" Christ is the only hope for our country and world just as Charlie Kirk championed and challenged the church to engage our culture with the truth for God's glory and the good of others. **May God give us that kind of courage and boldness for such a time as this!**

Ignited with Zeal & Godward Passion,

*Pastor Tim Board*

GFM Co-Founder & Director