

Dear Sophie,

A great man died today. You know his name and we've watched many of his videos. I doubt you're aware of the impact he has made already on this world. It's been neat to see it played out on social media and news outlets everywhere. To see a Christian honored for his life he gave to Christ, and to be able to share it with you and your siblings has been a privilege. But the depth of what has happened/ is happening is quite big, and I am sure it's going to impact your future. And as it's your turn for the prayer letter, I pondered what to say and what to write about you or say to you - how to express what I perceive is happening in our country, and around the world...I doubt I will be able to properly, but I will try...

Charlie Kirk was a real man - a real American man of God. He stood for truth; he fought with grace and meekness; he lived joyously with purpose that was eternal. And he died by the hands of haters of truth. What a way to live, and what a way to die! I hope that you will hear about him as time goes by but so much more than that, I pray, for your sake, and for the sake of your sisters and other young girls around the world, that this is a turning point, specifically, for men. For the boys and young men growing up now as you are, who need so desperately such examples in their lives as a Charlie Kirk - who need purpose and drive and zeal and joy and ambition and a sincere desire to help others grasp truth and right for themselves, for Christ's sake; and who need a strong man to lead them, to graciously guide them into manhood, courageous, bold as a lion, brave as a bear. No fear in life, no fear in death...

Why do I pray these things? For many reasons, but especially for you, dear daughter: for your future, for the man, Lord willing, God will allow you to be a helpmeet, and for so many young gurls and women being trained now for this very purpose also. For soldiers in the army of our Lord. For some more time in America of peace and rest, to continue to have the freedom as Americans to get the gospel to the world. For your future children and our grandchildren who, Lord willing, will not have to grow up under an oppressive government that hates God and truth. Your father and I had felt that hope fading in recent years - the fires of truth and right being put out all over, and the ones who were light bearers cowering with bushels over their candles...

So this Charlie Kirk, he was a light bearer. He shined and burned so brightly. So brightly and with such heat it burned, stung, ripped at the soul of the truth haters, the God-haters, until they could not stand it anymore and took his life. But in that great sin of murder, of stealing another's time, another's life, they have greatly erred because they showed us, true believers, that there is more hope now than ever before. HOPE!! What a glorious word! What a treasure we see in it, and feel, sense, flowing through our country now. And what a gift we have been given by one man who was willing to boldly share truth, no matter the cost. I have more hope today for your future and the future of your siblings, our future grandchildren, and the salvation of many around the world. Because of what? Because a good man died. Some would say an innocent man died. Hmm, sounds familiar...like something that happened a long time ago except that that man was perfect. And that man was and is the very Hope for which Charlie Kirk lived and died. "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, there's something about that name..." Live for Jesus, dear Sophie. Like your father. Like Charlie Kirk. Live like our precious Saviour Who willingly died in our place, and train the future generation to do the same!!!

Religion and Politics

We were “programmed” through the “channels” of the television from the end of WWII until the curtain of corruption being drawn back in 2016 to believe the narrative that we were being fed. Primetime introduced the normalcy of the dysfunctional family through shows like Andy Griffith, The Brady Bunch, and Full House and we don't have enough time to go through the normalizing of every other point of the “agenda”. “Communist”, “woke”, “progressive”- it does not matter what it is called. It is evil and counterintuitive... and purposed. We seemed to have reached a watershed with allowing sex changes to children and by allowing men in women's bathrooms if they choose to be a “woman” today. You can also choose to identify as an animal, or so they tell me.

Many ask incredulously - “How did we get here?” Exactly how Edmund Burke said we would get here. Good men did nothing. For a full 70 years - from bombing innocent civilians in Japan, allowing the communists to take China away from Chiang Kai Shek, normalizing divorce, normalizing the birth of illegitimate children, normalizing sodomy. I'm going to oversimplify it and say that we bought into the purposed propaganda of “just stay away from religion and politics - those are personal issues.” **Those are the two most societal issues possible to discuss!**

The hurt and anger and betrayal some may feel in the wake of the silencing of Charlie Kirk is the stark realization that powers have always limited DISCUSSION. That is all that Charlie Kirk did. He conversed in a day of social media, bread and circuses, meaningless programs and movies -Charlie Kirk DISCUSSED politics and religion and he had the truth. He struck a chord with common people - young people - **because he was willing to discuss religion and politics!** And he did it at the heart of the government propaganda machine - American universities. The anger and betrayal you feel is the slow realization that that is NOT ALLOWED in America if it goes against the powers that be! Side-note: no cities burned down in the aftermath, just prayer vigils unlike the George Floyd theater...)

Discussing Religion

While “the Gospel” would be the overwhelming theme that people reading this letter would consider “religion”, a person's individual faith and belief system and entire “faith” worldview is a building block of the society in which they live. This is why we share the Gospel with individuals - so that Jesus can forgive their sins and change their value systems!

Recently while Dom and Raffa were in Romania picking blueberries, I took Dela, Mikey, Nino, and Enzo to hit mountain villages for ten hours on a Friday. Now, you have to imagine with me because I doubt you've been on a road like this in America. We turned off the one-lane (sort of a like a “holler” road) on to a dirt and stone and mud path that we followed for six miles up to a teeny-weeny village of fifteen houses. When we finished getting the John/Romans and Gospel tracts to those houses, my map book told me there was one more village another four miles down an even less-traveled road. We picked our way through mud holes, ravines, crags and sharp rocks, trees and bushes that swiped all sides of the vehicle at once until we reached this tiny village on top of the mountain.

There might have been five remnants of houses up there, but there was one house with two cars parked in front. I dropped the kids off to go deliver a John and Romans while I did an 18-point u-turn on the path on the side of the mountain. While I was turning around, a man and lady approached the kids so I hopped out to talk to them.

They invited us in (a rarity - we might have had this happen 30 times in 3,000 villages). After indulging in some Balkan cuisine including some rather tender mutton, we realized there were about twenty people of all ages looking at us askance. Bulgarians, not excelling at social graces, sort of waited for me to initiate the conversation even though I was their guest. We were seated off to the side and I began picking my way through the situation.

The man that invited us in was a Bulgarian living in Colorado. Once inside, I found out that EVERYBODY there was visiting from out of town. I found out that the old man at the head of the table who didn't really acknowledge us and sort of grunted his answers to his daughters) was the LONE inhabitant of this village and that his three daughters and their husbands and their children and grandchildren were all there for ONE day to remember the passing of his wife ten years earlier.

It was a divine appointment even unsaved people could recognize! I was able to give the gospel and leave tracts with further explanation on salvation. There were seeds planted that surely one day will come to fruition. We need to discuss religion with everyone possible!

Evil is not omnipotent nor is evil omniscient. Powers have always tried to silence the voice of truth and evil has always used brute force to silence the truth. Martyr's Mirror is 1100 pages of evil silencing truthers. Nothing new here. Evil only wins when it bullies us into keeping our mouths shut!

Thank you to those who prayed and are fasting as we continue this church-planting process. This week we sign the lease on a church meeting place! Pray for boldness in the darkness as we look to be light. Let us all be diligent to "be always ready to give an answer" as Peter exhorts and as our brother, Charlie Kirk was.

On the Bulgarian front lines in the battle for souls,

Nick, Katie, Dom, Raffa, Dela, Sophie, Sonny, Mikey, Nino, Enzo, and Gia

*All we can give He should receive.
All He has said we should believe.
All that He asks we can achieve;
All of our needs He will relieve;
So give, give, give for Jesus Christ!*

*Forget "stay safe"; let go of "sure";
Become content in "insecure";
Keep motive right, and heart, stay pure;
True men, embrace this worthy lure,
And stand, stand, stand for Jesus Christ!*

*Let go of weights that lead astray,
Put action to the words you say,
Acknowledge Him throughout your day,
Tell everyone He is the way!
And live, live, live for Jesus Christ!*

*Rise up and go, don't hesitate,
You've one short life to dedicate;
Go! Preach! Love! Teach! repel the hate,
Surrender all and trust His fate,
And if He asks....yes, dear Christian,
Yes. Die. Die, Die, for Jesus Christ!*