



# *Publishing Peace*

A quarterly journal published by West Virginia School of Preaching under the oversight of the elders of Hillview Terrace Church of Christ, Moundsville, WV 26041 (304) 845-8001 (dirwvsop@aol.com).

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*“Behold on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace!...” (Nahum 1:15)*

## **A Great Lectureship**

The 28th annual Victory Lectures were a great success. Attendance was excellent, with representation of forty-eight congregations from eleven states. The lecturers were well-prepared and delivered their messages with zeal and clarity.

A highlight of the lectureship was Terry Varner, one of the founders of the school, overcoming health difficulties to deliver his lecture on 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Following his lecture, the below picture was taken of all the gospel preachers in attendance for that hour. It was inspiring, uplifting, and challenging.



## **Books and Lectures**

Lectureship books are available. We request a \$20 donation to cover costs, plus just a little extra. We request a little more to handle shipping costs, if such is applicable. You can order by calling 304-845-8001.

The lectures are available on our website at <https://wvsop.com/victory-lectures/>.

# Student Spotlights



**Jordan Smith** graduated Monroe Central High School in 2008. In 2021, he graduated Liberty University with a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis in Business, History,

and Education. In his time here at West Virginia School of Preaching, Jordan has shown himself very conscientious, hard-working, and studious.

Family-wise, Jordan has a son whom he adores, Conner. His wife, Grace, and he have been married a little over three years. She is a wonderful Christian lady and great help to Jordan as he studies, learns, and preaches.

This fine young man had been thinking about preaching for some time, having a great desire to reach lost souls with the saving message of Jesus Christ. Circumstances finally aligned in 2021 for him to be able to start school that August.

Jordan is set to graduate in June 2023, after which he hopes to work as an intern, if possible, for some more practical training. If not possible, he plans to assume the pulpit position in a congregation somewhere. He desires to serve in a place that wants to grow, glorify God, and has great zeal.



**Jeff Harris** came to us upon retiring from a distinguished career in the medical profession. Jeff's penchant for education led him to obtain a B.A. from West Virginia University, an M.B.A

for Physicians from the University of South Florida, a D.O. from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, and a J.D. from the University of Akron. He practiced and was board certified for emergency medicine and family practice. Along the way he obtained many distinguished honors.

Jeff has always had a desire to serve people. He says, "The last eight years of my medical practice was for the Veterans Administration. It was a pleasure to take care of this country's veterans." He adds, "I decided to come to WVSOP to study the Bible. The school covers every book of the Bible and I like the idea of having various instructors. I am not sure what I will do after I finish the classes."

This we know, it is a joy to have Jeff here. He comes on his own money and is a great influence to the students with his example of work ethic, warm personality, and wit. In short, Jeff has always and continues to use the venue of education to help people.

## *Commentaries*

Commentaries by our late brother **D. Gene West** on the books of *Acts*, *Hebrews*, *Revelation*, and *Romans*.

*We ask for donations to cover cost of books and shipping.*

*For more information, call 304-845-8001 or e-mail: [secwvsop@aol.com](mailto:secwvsop@aol.com)*

# The Preacher and His Family

David R. Kenney

*Editor's Note: Originally a chapel talk, David kindly adapted this for inclusion in our newsletter. His advice, aimed at preachers, we believe to be profitable for the brotherhood to see.*

We have a minister crisis. Correction, we have minister crises (plural)! I hear we are losing more preachers than are being prepared to replace them. I do not know what the replacement rate is, but I am not speaking about replacement numbers. That is not the crisis of which I am speaking. I want to focus on threats to a preacher and his family.

A Google Search on preachers (or pastors) and infidelity will reveal there is a serious problem. If you think that's "them" and not "us," then you would be mistaken. Many know of families shattered because the father, who was the preacher, committed adultery. We may be lured in a false sense of security when we proclaim "Not me! I would never!"

Joshua stated, "*And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*" (Joshua 24:15 NKJV). Notice Joshua's commitment was not just personal but also familial. We know Joshua's name was Hoshea and he was the son of Nun. He was a descendant of Joseph. His tribal lineage came through Ephraim (1 Chron 7:20, 23–27). Legend states Joshua was married and had daughters, but that is legend not Scripture. Have you ever noticed how many perfect families there were in the Bible? Even the Lord's family had problems. This informs me that it would be unwise to assume all will go well because you are a preacher and have a Christian family. Do not be taken in by a false sense of security. Fight for your family! Protect your family! Protect yourself!

A few points:

- Be sure not to assume that a church that is good for you is good for your family.
- Be sure to check on the welfare of your children when you move into a new area. Remember, it may be the "honeymoon period" for you, but it

might be a real nightmare for your kids trying to make the adjustment.

Be sure to make it clear to the church that you and your wife are responsible for the disciplining of your family.

Be sure to encourage your children to be involved in worship and ministry to their full potential. Do not isolate them from the church.

Be sure to be the spiritual leader of your family, not just in the church. Children need parents, not a buddy! Remember, what you place in your children's hands matter! Keep your hands holy!

Do what is right not because others may be watching but because it is the right thing to do!

Be sure to share the joys and laughter of ministry with your family, but be careful to shield them from negativity and criticism. My parents would say "Little ears are listening" to change the subject when us kids were around.

Be sure your family knows "The church is a perfect institution made up of imperfect people." One of my children told me "The worst kind of criticism that I was exposed to while growing up was listening to members openly criticize my father." How you react to criticism in front of your children matters.

Never be in a room alone with another woman unless it is your wife. People mocked Vice President Mike Pence for stating he made it a point to never dine with a woman alone other than his wife. The media mocked him, and a lawyer even tried to claim such a rule was not honorable but probably illegal, being another form of sexual harassment. Mike & Karen Pence were married August 4, 1978, and they are still married. Think about that!

Remember, the church can replace you, but your family cannot!

Paul instructed Timothy: "*Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity*" (1 Tim 4:12). It would be major mistake to assume that Timothy only had to pay attention to this because of his "youth." Keep yourself pure! Keep your family pure! Keep the church pure! Do not fail in any of these three areas! (Self, Family, Church).

## *Currently Available Lectureship Books!*

*WVSOP Lectureship Books are available in print from the following years:*

2014: The Gospel of John

2015: When I Study the Psalms: Enlarging My Faith, Eliminating My Fears

2016: That You May Know with Certainty: Studies in the Gospel of Luke

2017: When I Study the Psalms: Enhancing My Prayers, Enriching My Worship

2018: Paul's Epistle to the Romans (Chs. 1-11): The Depth of the Riches of God's Saving Grace

2019: When I Study the Psalms: Encouraging My Spirit, Enlightening My Understanding

2020: Paul's Epistle to the Romans (Chs. 12-16): To God Be the Glory

2021: When I Study the Psalms: Enumerating My Blessings, Enduring My Sorrows

**2022: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Preach the Word!**

*We ask for donations to cover cost of books and shipping.*

*For more information, call 304-845-8001 or e-mail: [secwvsop@aol.com](mailto:secwvsop@aol.com)*

*\*Please note that out-of-print lectureship books are available in pdf form on our website at <https://wvsop.com/victory-lectures/>. Click on the desired year and there will be a link to the pdf, as well as recordings of the presented lectures.*

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