



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).

Vol. 22 No. 4 October-December 2024

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

W. Terry Varner

1935-2024

by David Deagel

“I like grapes....I like grape juice...but I don’t like grape jelly” (W. Terry Varner). There are times in our lives when something so dramatic happens (9/11) or a monumental statement is made (“A date which will live in Infamy” FDR) that becomes completely unforgettable for the extent of our existence. For me, it is that quote from Brother Terry Varner. I believe it was an opening line for a lecture he gave from the pulpit at the Hillview Terrace church of Christ. My mind's eye pictures him leaning over the podium, both arms stretched out, a finger in the air, speaking in his unique drawl of voice explaining his stance on grapes, only to then expound upon the Holy Writ with complete mastery.

In my estimation, Brother Terry Varner ranks as one of the greatest expounders of Scripture and apologists in the Ohio Valley, and I dare say, without hesitation, one of the greats of our current brotherhood. He was and will always be a man held in high esteem throughout the brotherhood. He was a man with a wondrous wealth of knowledge, tenacious tact, and a humble heart.

I first remember meeting W. Terry Varner in the early 1990s. He was a teacher with the West Virginia School of Preaching. During those years my family owned a bakery/restaurant just a few miles from the school. Many of the students and faculty would come to “Deagel’s” for lunch at least 1 day a week. On the days brother Varner was in town we typically saw him twice. He

loved sweets, particularly a maple iced peanut butter and graham cracker danish my father called a “Bear Claw”. In the mornings he would get a box of sweets to take to the students and staff at the school. He would return for lunch later in the afternoon. He always took the time to talk with my father and mother and to see how things were going with the business. “I’ll need a receipt!” he often stated, much to my confusion. Why on earth does a man need a receipt for a cabbage roll lunch? Many years later when I attended WVSOP myself (2009-2011), I was blessed with the opportunity to sit at his feet as a student. It was then I understood the request for a receipt as Brother Varner would state, “We are to render unto Caesar what belongs to him. That means that we are expected to pay our taxes. It also means that we need to be aware of tax laws and the many allowable deductions that are ours to enjoy!” In 2001 my father suffered a massive stroke which forced the closing of the bakery. The years up to his passing were difficult without income and insurance. Brother Varner, with the assistance of his sons Scott and Steve, did many benevolent things for my family during that time, advocating for my father to receive social services and on occasion providing beef from their family farm. On one occasion, Brother Varner offered some fish from their recent annual Canada fishing excursion, Dad got a big chuckle from that, as mom is highly allergic to fish.

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Brother Varner had an endearing heart that always encouraged, appreciated, and motivated others. During our class days, he encouraged us students to be better men, students, writers, and preachers. He encouraged us to always be students of the Bible. “You are not educated sufficiently. You know very little, to nothing, about being a minister, consequently, you must continue to avail yourself to personal goals of academic, spiritual growth, and normal aspects of maturity” he would then add, “You can’t grow if you don’t know” as he held up his small burgundy New Testament. He encouraged us not to simply accept everything we read or heard from others, even known faithful preachers and writers. He encouraged us to, “use your noodle-doodle!” “You need to learn to think and to think logically. Thinking comes from reading.” He wanted his students to think critically and deeply about everything they read and studied. He encouraged his students to be and remain always “God’s man.”

While in located work, he continued mentoring and encouraging his students. From time to time he would call to see how the work was going. “You got any problems yet?” Brother Varner knew the work of a preacher well, serving the Lord’s church for over 65 years. He understood the difficulties that a newly located minister could face. He offered sound advice and at times, advice that was hard to accept or even shocking to hear. On one occasion during a discussion about how to deal with difficult leaders in the church, he stated, “Well, sometimes there are good deaths.” He was not advocating for murderous ministers, but the reality that some difficulties within a church disappear at the leaving or passing of a difficult church leader.

As it has been noted by others, the last few years were difficult for Brother Varner, and frankly for his entire family. Yet, remarkably, his desire to study, write, and teach was unaffected. He continued to teach students for the West Virginia School of Preaching, including the last graduating class of June 2024. Brother Varner was confined to his recliner. On Friday afternoons of the last

quarter, students would carpool to the Varner residence in Moundsville, WV, and be taught the importance of a great library, keeping impeccable church and tax records, along with many other aspects of being a good minister of the Gospel of Christ. His dear wife Lillie would be the hospitable hostess providing refreshments, entertaining a student’s children who accompanied him, and “talking shop” with the preachers’ wives. She, on occasion, would needfully play time-keeper, knowing her husband and students could talk all afternoon and evening, and well into the night if allowed.

It was an honor to be a student of Brother W. Terry Varner. It was an honor to be mentored by him. It was a great honor to call him a friend and brother.

One of Brother Varner’s statements to me as a student that always remained with me, and has resounded more recently with his passing was a statement he made regarding life and death. He stated, “I live every day of my life as though I will never die,” followed by a dramatic pause, “and at the same time I live every day of my life as though it is my last!”

Enroll To Be a Student

APPLICATIONS FOR 2025/2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.WVSOP.COM

30th Annual Victory Lectures

October 20-24, 2024

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

A Study of Philippians

Sunday Morning Bible Study: @ 9:45 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship: @ 10:40 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship: @ 6:30 p.m.

"Introduction to Philippians"
 "The Life and Labors of Paul"
 "Overview of Philippians"

Aaron Burch
 Aaron Burch
 Roger Rush

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	<i>Chapter 1 - A Devoted Mind</i>	<i>Chapter 2 - A Determined Mind</i>	<i>Chapter 2 - A Dedicated Mind</i>	<i>Chapter 4 - A Directed Mind</i>
9:00 AM	"Devoted to the Fellowship in the Gospel" (Philippians 1:1-8) Phil Grear	"Determined to Be Submissive" (Philippians 2:1-4) Justin Odom	"Worship in Spirit" (Philippians 3:1-6) Dan Kessinger	"Directed to Cooperate" (Philippians 4:1-3) David Deagel
10:00 AM	"Devoted to Being Filled by the Gospel" (Philippians 1:9-11) Emanuel Daugherty	"Determined to Suffer" (Philippians 2:5-11) Neal Pollard	"Willing to Sacrifice" (Philippians 3:7-11) Colin Morrison	"Directed to Be Calm" (Philippians 4:4-7) Sam Barrtrug
11:00 AM	"Devoted to the Furtherance of the Gospel" (Philippians 1:12-14) Don Schuler	"Determined to Shine" (Philippians 2:12-18) Peter Ray Cole	"Walk by the Same Rule" (Philippians 3:12-16) Ed Melott	"Directed to Concentrate" (Philippians 4:8-9) Rod Goddard
1:15 PM	"Devoted to Being Fortified by the Gospel" (Philippians 1:15-18) Paolo DiLuca	"Determined to Be Sincere" (Philippians 2:19-24) Bruce Daugherty	"Wary of the Shameful" (Philippians 3:17-19) Hunter Melott	"Directed to Be Content" (Philippians 4:10-13) Hiram Kemp
2:15 PM	"Devoted to the Fruit of the Gospel" (Philippians 1:19-26) D.J. Kessinger	"Determined to Serve" (Philippians 2:25-30) Scott Judge	"Wait for the Savior" (Philippians 3:20-21) Andy Robison	"Directed to Be Caring" (Philippians 4:14-23) Dale Parsley
3:15 PM	"Devoted to the Faith of the Gospel" (Philippians 1:27-30) Steve Smithbauer	"Paul's Son in the Gospel" (Philippians 2) Doug Kashorek	"The Conversion of Lydia" (Acts 16:11-15) John Board	"The Conversion of the Jailer" (Acts 16:16-34) Terry Jones
6:30 PM	CONGREGATIONAL SING	CONGREGATIONAL SING	CONGREGATIONAL SING	CONGREGATIONAL SING
7:05 PM	"The Christian and Death" (Philippians 1) Neal Pollard	"The Deity and Humanity of Christ" (Philippians 2) Neal Pollard	"The Resurrection of the Dead" (Philippians 3) Hiram Kemp	"The Christian Life" (Philippians 4) Hiram Kemp

Charlie Snodgrass

1963-2024

by Andy Robison

Charlie Lee Snodgrass was born in Marion County, West Virginia February 6, 1963, with many health problems, and was not expected, by his own reports, to live past childhood. Instead of fulfilling such a bleak picture, Charlie lived to the age of sixty-one, passing away this past August 11, during which years he became one of the most inspiring personalities one could meet.

This little, bright, vibrant man, with a keen sense of humor and relentless optimism, served his country in the Army Reserve and then in the Navy. As his adult life progressed, physical problems continue to beset him, but nothing could infringe upon the positive nature of his spirit. He continuously spoke of how grateful he was for his many blessings and how he was “truly the most blessed man in the world.” I visited him in the hospital five days before he passed. When I asked how he was doing, he triumphantly, if somewhat ironically, replied, “If I were any better, I’d be taking care of the doctors.”

In 2006, Charlie was baptized into Christ, and he spent the rest of his days rejoicing (cf. Acts 8:39). In 2008, he enrolled at the West Virginia School of Preaching, and became the only graduate in the class of 2010. The school’s first director, an instructor at the time of Charlie’s attendance, Emanuel Daugherty, recalls,

He was a very fine student with great work and study habits coming to school each morning at 6 AM to study until chapel and class-time. Charlie “did what he could” with cheer, thanksgiving, and zeal. In my book, Charlie was a treasure and model student! He endured when others gave up and gave in. His life was lived under great hardship, but he made the most of what he had in every way! God bless his memory!

Charlie was thankful. His living experience was far from luxurious, but his gratitude was unmatched. After he had been through a lot of very severe medical problems, he wrote a Thanksgiving post that would bring a hardened man to tears.

This man of God leaves behind his loving, sweet wife Louise, many family members and friends, and his church community whom he loved so dearly. He also leaves a legacy of cheer and determination born of Christian faith which would be good for all men to emulate.

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