

**Future Preacher's  
Training Camp  
2012!**

**Future Preacher's Training Camp 2012**

*Jefferson A. Sole (Associate Director)*

Are you a young man interested in becoming a future leader in the Lord's church? Do you know a young man interested in becoming a leader in the Lord's church? If so, this year's Future Preacher's Training Camp will help you or someone you know meet their goal! Graduates of the West Virginia School of Preaching, have put forth a tremendous amount of effort to organize a three day Bible camp geared toward **14-18 year olds** to help cultivate an aspiring leader's desire and ability. There are several reasons to be excited about FPTC 2012:

- Unlike the past two years, this year's FPTC will be a **three day event beginning on Friday, June 22** and continuing through Sunday, June 24. This allows for an extensive instructional period that will be even more beneficial to our attendees.
- All classes will be **taught by WVSOP faculty members**. Therefore attendees will be exposed to exceptional teaching from some of the most dedicated preachers/leaders. In addition it provides attendees with a sample of the quality of teaching WVSOP students receive in areas such as NT Greek, Homiletics, and a preacher/leader and his work.
- One of our goals is to help attendees apply instruction they receive immediately by providing a mentor who will help them refine and/or develop a short sermon. Sermons will be preached toward the end of camp and feedback will be given. All of our mentors are alumni of the WVSOP who know the value of one-on-one instruction, constructive criticism, and positive reinforcement having received similar feedback from instructors at the WVSOP.
- There will be several devotional periods lead by WVSOP alumni which mirror the Chapel service our students attend each day of instruction.
- **There are no costs to attend FPTC**. All meals and sleeping accommodations are provided by the Church of Christ at Hillview Terrace.
- The entire schedule, application, and list of items for attendees to bring are located on our **website [www.wvsop.com](http://www.wvsop.com) under the Reference Tab**. There is limited space, so apply now!

We hope parents and congregations will use this event to encourage young men who are interested in preparing themselves for leadership in the Lord's church. Without faithful men dedicated to teaching others, the church will not meet its maximum potential. It is our mission at the WVSOP to encourage faithful men to preach the Gospel and provide on-going Bible classes to assist them in preparing for the ministry (2 Timothy 2:2). We believe the FPTC is a worthwhile effort that is encouraging and instructional to young men who may desire to lead in the Lord's church. Ω



# Publishing Peace

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



## Honor to Whom Honor is Due

*by D. Gene West*

June 15<sup>th</sup> will be a very special day for the students who are graduating from West Virginia School of Preaching. They will walk across the stage and receive that Certificate that will testify that they have successfully completed a rigorous course of Bible Study over the past two years. The Certificate will represent about 2700 clock hours of classroom instruction, as well as untold hours in writing term papers, doing outside reading and memorization from the Holy Book. They will be equipped, at least on some level, to assume the responsibilities of working with a congregation of our people, or perhaps entering mission work at home or abroad. We certainly wish them every success as they labor in the Kingdom of Christ in whatever part of the world they may find themselves.

However, this year's banquet will be a very special one for there is another type of "graduation" taking place. Our beloved and deeply admired director brother Denver E. Cooper has announced his retirement from his duties at the helm of the West Virginia School of Preaching, so the banquet set to begin at 6:00 PM, June 15<sup>th</sup> has been designed to honor him as well as the graduates. With that statement we wish to invite any and all of our readers who can do so to be with us to celebrate, and perhaps shed a few tears of gratitude, at the retirement of our esteemed and deeply loved brother. If you can be with us please let the school know, preferably by note or a phone call by 4:00 PM June 1. This banquet is to be catered and there is therefore, a need to have as accurate a number to be served as possible. Ω

*Graduation & Banquet*

West Virginia School of Preaching

*June 15th, 2012*

Banquet begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by graduation.

RSVP 304-845-8001

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*West Virginia*  
*School of Preaching*  
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## Denver E. Cooper

D. Gene West

When brother Cooper came to the School to assume his duties in 2003, he did not come as a stranger to any of us. He had ministered to the Hillview Terrace Church for some eighteen years prior to leaving and going to a mission work in the southern part of the state. It was with joyous hearts that he and his wonderful wife Florence were welcomed back into our midst. It was good to have them home again. To show the Christian courtesy of this man the following revelation is made known broadly for the first time. He approached me and told me the Elders had offered him the post. Then he asked if it would bother me in any way for him to return, since he knew that some preachers rather resented a former preacher coming back to the congregation, he wanted no tension of any kind between us. I told him nothing could please me more than for him to come and work with us here at Hillview. Not a cross or unkind word has ever passed between us we have worked together as do a hand and a glove. Denver is a man of supreme courtesy, and what I have learned from just observing him in various situations is more priceless than gold. This writer's heart is more than heavy to see him have to cut back on responsibilities.

As a preacher he is one of a kind. If any man can deliver a sermon with more kindness, charity, he has not yet been found. He made no effort to show great learning, though he has that. Even after preaching more than seventy years he still has a passion to win the lost to Christ. That is both center and circumference of his life.

Furthermore, he is a man who is trusted beyond trust. Many is the time when he would go out to preach some brother would slip a hand full of cash into his pocket telling him that this was for the students of the School. When he arrived home and emptied his pocket, he would often find two or three thousand dollars. A lesser man would have coveted that kind of money, but not Denver, the money was faithfully delivered to the school.

When he began preaching he vowed to preach in whatever venue the brethren would provide, so he faithfully delivered the Word of God in tents, schoolhouses, people's homes and in fine buildings provided by brethren. What was important to him was that the Gospel was preached; the place mattered not at all.

His dedication to his wife and family is truly

inspiring. When sister Florence left this earth to enjoy unseen realities, he resolved even more strongly than ever to be with her some sweet day. The two of them reared nine children, whose souls and lives are as important to him today as they were when they gathered round their parents as little ones. Though he is now in his 90<sup>th</sup> year, it is a devout prayer that he will be with us yet longer that we might learn from his wisdom and example.

One could not hazard a guess of how many adjectives there are in the American language, but all the best ones should be reserved for our brother Cooper. Our banquet is not to honor a man who is "quitting," but honor a man who is moving on to another stage in his work for Christ. Therefore, we invite you to be with us at 6:00 PM, June 15, here at the West Virginia School of Preaching to honor a man who has few equals in living the Christian life and no superiors. We thank our God for the privilege of knowing him and working with him. Ω

**Attention Alumni!**

**Lectureship Books**


**Free Offer**

WVSOP is offering alumni free past and future Victory Lectureship Books. If you are interested in receiving this offer please contact Jefferson Sole at 304-845-8001.

Come study the Bible with us!

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**Director:** Denver E. Cooper

**Associate Director:** Jefferson A. Sole

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**WVSOP.COM**

Faculty  
Feature

## Led By the Spirit

Charles J. Aebi

Paul said, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Romans 8:14). When I preached in Coraopolis a man there believed he had been led by the Spirit of God to know that he was a child of God because when he was hospitalized with pneumonia, in his fevered state he saw on a wall numbers representing people who had died. Since his number was not among them, this meant God was telling him that he was saved. If that is the way the Spirit leads us, we have a serious problem: we can never be certain what God is trying to communicate to us. Maybe that man should have interpreted the numbers to mean he had not won the lottery, or that he had failed to pay his income tax, or that he was not one of the 144,000. But since he saw it as a positive message, perhaps he should have understood God to be telling him he was not going to die of that illness, or that the walls in *his* house had already been painted?

How does the Spirit of God lead us to know what we should do? Some folks think that God shows them what to do in nearly every area of their lives. A man near where I now live thought that the Spirit showed him how to put a new muffler on his pickup truck, and another man of my acquaintance said the Spirit led him to choose the right doctor and led that doctor to prescribe the right medicine for him. If you think these are far-fetched ideas that people seldom have, you need only talk to some people in your own area about their relationship to God, and you will hear similar ideas. No doubt God in His providence leads us by our experiences to learn some things, but our passage in Romans 8 is dealing with how we know we are God's children and how we live as God's children. How does one by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body so he can live spiritually (8:13)? How can we know that we are children of God (8:16)? We know we are children of God when we know two things: (1) what God says we are to do to become His children; and (2) that we have done it. The Holy Spirit testifies as to how we can be God's people, as He always has, through God's word revealed by God's Spirit through prophets. When we have heard or read that inspired testimony and can testify that we have done what God asks, we know that we are children of God. Then when, having heard Christ's definition of the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), we

abandon them and live as the Spirit instructs us in the gospel, we are being led by the Spirit and continue to be God's faithful children.

The idea that the Spirit leads people apart from the gospel, the word of Christ, to know how to be saved and how to live as Christians, is nowhere taught in the Scriptures. Children of God are led by the Spirit of God as they read, believe, and follow the New Testament, the word of God which is the in corruptible seed that lives and abides forever, and through which we are born again and purify our souls by obeying the truth through the Spirit (1 Peter 1:22-23). Are you led by the Spirit of God, or by the notions of men? If by the Spirit of God, you are God's child. Ω

Help us save!

Help us save money by signing up to receive Publishing Peace electronically, simply by sending an e-mail request to Jefferson Sole at [dirwvsop@gmail.com](mailto:dirwvsop@gmail.com) or make the switch on our website at [wvsop.com](http://wvsop.com).

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