

From the President

Camp Is Never Over

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

The day after summer camp ends, the Ranch looks and sounds like a ghost town. After such an intense and full season, I feel just a little bit lonely when the last of our summer staff turns onto Highway 96 and heads for home. After having nearly one-hundred young people serve with us and having hundreds and hundreds of others visit us weekly, it seems very still indeed... for about thirty-five minutes.

Then you can hear it faintly up the Ranch road leading to camp, a hum that draws closer by the minute until a large Skag Lawnmower appears. If you could see beyond the mower and straight through the trees blocking our view as we stand near the Ranch entrance, you would see dozens of horses heading for fall pasture. Meanwhile, teachers are busily putting the last touches on classroom decor up at Bill Rice Christian Academy, where over one-hundred students will soon converge. And just a fortnight after Bill Rice Bible Institute graduated her class of 2019, we are making preparations for the class of 2020 who will be arriving before the end of August. Finally, the program staff is planning for the campers who will soon arrive for the first fall event.

Summer is over, but camp most certainly is not! My dad has often said that the Ranch is not a camp with a ministry; it is a ministry with a camp. Many who think about the Ranch think of horses, or of outreach to the Deaf, or of youth groups. Above everything else, they almost always think of summer! Yet, while all of these are accurate pictures of the Bill Rice Ranch, they are just different facets of the defining mission that drives us. The Bill Rice Ranch is a revival ministry. When Bill and Cathy Rice came off the road from summer revival meetings in 1950 in order to run summer camps, they were not doing a new thing; they were doing the same thing in a new way.

In 1959, my grandfather wrote, "There is no question in the world but that God called me to be an evangelist...Yet I now spend several months of the year at Cumberwood (the Ranch). During the summer when there are opportunities for large tent campaigns, etc, I am not available. I am at Cumberwood. What am I doing? No telling! Maybe cutting down trees, maybe riding the bulldozer, maybe pouring tar on the roof, writing hundreds of letters, working with stock...

Is this the work of an evangelist? Well, I do a lot of preaching, of course, each summer. But in this case the other is just as much the work of an evangelist because we would not have the Deaf...to preach to if we did not have the camp."

As for me, I will be privileged to preach in a number of churches in the coming weeks in between camping events we will have here on the Ranch. For the Ranch, revival meetings and camping events are not two different things; they are exactly the same thing. The difference is that at camp there are fewer distractions from revival preaching than there usually are out on the road.

So, the seasons change, the methods sometimes change, and even the location changes from the Ranch in Tennessee to our West Branch in Williams, Arizona to revival meetings in some distant state. Yet our reason is never out of season or hemmed in by geographical borders. What is our reason for existence at the Ranch? What does the Ranch do? We do the same thing that we have always done, summer or fall. We pioneer evangelistic outreach.

This is why we still invite deaf young people to camp for free, why we conduct revival meetings across the country, why we take the Gospel to New York City each year, and why we run a host of events here in the fall. And this mission and all it requires is why this fall will be anything but lonely!



Inside this issue

**A Look Back
& A Look Forward**
by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch
Summer Photos & Need Focus

From West Branch
Just What You Need



Visit billriceranch.org for photos, videos, registration forms, and exciting opportunities!



A Look Back & A Look Forward

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

This year, Pensacola Christian College completed a beautiful residence hall that will accommodate approximately 900 young male students. The "Tower" was named after Evangelist Bill Rice III. Here you can read Brother Bill's remarks at the dedication of the building.

This building is both humbling and, quite frankly, a little embarrassing to me because there are so many people that have given so much to the ministry of Pensacola Christian College and therefore their names could be honored today. While it was obviously an honor for my family, it was also somewhat humbling for me to learn of this.

Now I want to mention two things briefly.

Number one is about the name Rice. One thing that has helped me with this honor is that when I think of the name Rice, I think of the people whom God has used who have proceeded me in the family and who are following me in the family. John Rice was an evangelist. Bill Rice, my father, was an evangelist. Joe Rice, my uncle, was an evangelist. Pete Rice, my brother is an evangelist.

Ronnie Rice, my brother, is an evangelist and Wil Rice, my son, is an evangelist. All of these men have had some part in or some impact on the ministries of Pensacola Christian College, and I am thankful for that. When I see Rice Tower, I think, (as I think we all should) of the heritage of men who have had a part in the ministry of Pensacola Christian.

Here is the second thing and to me perhaps the more important. We all love buildings, and this is a beautiful campus. We are all aware of the fact that God has blessed this school with great facilities. But we should always remember that a ministry is people.

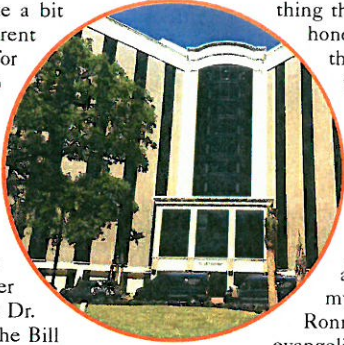
It's people.

Buildings never witness. Buildings don't lead people to Christ. Buildings don't pray for hurting students. Buildings don't do nothing! They are just buildings. It is people who become Pensacola Christian College. In some sense, it's a little sad that people will look at Rice Tower and say, "Wow, look at God's blessings on Pensacola Christian College!" This building does (in a very small way) show the blessings of God on this ministry, but Pensacola Christian College is people!

I heard a graduate this morning in chapel. My son and my two daughters are graduates, as are their mates. My pastor is here today; he is a graduate. They are all part of the people whom God has used here, and we might refer to them as Pensacola Christian. So, people are important, and we ought to remember that as we leave this building. Buildings come and go. The work that God does through people endures forever.

I often think of Aristarchus. Remember Aristarchus? His name is in the New Testament, but he is basically unknown. However, I've always loved Aristarchus because I've always thought that if God could use Aristarchus, He could use any of us. And Aristarchus is really quite a godly man in Scripture. We will learn a lot more about him at the Bema. We'll learn about you too and what you've given and the hours you have put in and the young people you've helped. Nobody else may know, but God knows and we will know. That's a wonderful truth. And so, we thank God for the plant of Pensacola Christian College and the ministries of PCC, but we are especially thankful today for you, the people who have made this ministry serve. God bless you.

Thank you.



Mary and I travel quite a bit and stay in a lot of different places. Years ago, just for fun, I began saying to pastors when asking about lodging, "Are we staying in the Bill Rice III honorary mission's apartment?"

So, I was on campus several months ago when the building was under construction and I said to Dr. Shoemaker, "When will the Bill Rice III Memorial Residence hall be finished?"

He listened, chuckled kindly, and didn't say anything.

The following fall, he called me up on the phone and said, "Bill, do you remember when you asked when the Bill Rice III Memorial Residence Hall would be finished?"

I said, "Yes, I remember."

He said, "Well, that's what we are going to name it."

And honestly, I was speechless.... for about four seconds!

BACK AT THE RANCH...

BILL RICE RANCH



Just What You Need

When deaf teenagers come to our camps for the first time, we assume they know absolutely nothing about the Bible. For this reason, we start at the Creation story introducing them to who God is and how He has made everything and everyone. The message then develops into man's sinfulness and God's provision of redemption through Christ.

During one of these services in July, the preacher asked a deaf teenage boy what the names of the first man and woman were. Trying to make a reasonable guess, the camper tried, "Tom?" "Lisa?" He was just a bit off, of course! What a wonderful illustration of what we have often said at the Ranch: the Deaf only know what someone has taken time to tell them. It was our privilege both to inform them of Genesis facts and subsequently see the light come on in their eyes as they understood the Gospel story for the first time. That is how it went this summer during our first Deaf Camp in Williams! Two deaf young people trusted Christ to save them, while during the hearing services, two hearing young people were saved that week as well.

Having not only our first Deaf Camp in Williams but also our first combination week of any kind was a daunting undertaking. It required additional staff, promotion, and coordination. It also took additional funds since deaf campers ages 9-19 come free to camp! The Lord provided all of it, and as we look in the rear view mirror at this experience, we can plainly see that He knew exactly what we needed all along.

For one, we needed deaf campers! We did not really know how many to expect, but the Lord gave us ten campers in the Deaf program. With teen camp happening at the same time, there were many activity and social opportunities available beyond what just Deaf Camp itself could provide. The deaf and the hearing campers both obviously enjoyed the experience.

The financial provision was a blessing also. We appreciate the many individuals, churches, and even VBS penny marches that contributed to seeing the need met.

Then, I have to mention how God provided for the staff we needed too! Assembling every summer staff requires months of work, but this year we needed additional specialized workers too. God provided! Some had more experience than others, but

Deaf Camp Staff and Campers



since God knew what we needed, He gave us who we needed. One special aspect to God's provision was Josh and Dee Dee Porter joining our full-time staff. They were a last-second addition that proved to be essential to our efforts throughout the summer. They have lightened the load for sure!

So many others could be mentioned from our summer staff. Every one of them contributed significantly and had an important part in seeing young people saved and dozens of spiritual decisions made for the Lord. The point primarily is that God knew what we needed and provided it. Or should I say He provided them!

BILL RICE Bible Institute

On Friday, August 2, Bill Rice Bible Institute held its fifth annual graduation service. Fifteen young people graduated with the Certificate of Bible and Associate of Christian Studies degrees. Several will be transferring to other Christian colleges this fall. We praise the Lord for these graduates!

NEED FOCUS

One of the first projects of this fall is to complete the work we began in May of refreshing and replacing the sidewalks around camp. While the general impression this work will leave will be incredible, the work is accomplished one square at a time. We believe \$10,000 would be enough to do all that is needed. We can replace one square of sidewalk for \$40 a square. Would you consider helping with this project? Together, we can put the Ranch on better footing by putting better footing on the Ranch!



Calendar OF EVENTS

FALL RETREATS

Elementary Retreat	Sept. 5-6
Junior & Senior High Retreat	Sept. 12-13
Ladies' Retreat	Oct. 3-5
Men's Challenge	Oct. 31-Nov. 2
Couples Retreat	Dec. 5-7

REGIONAL EVENTS

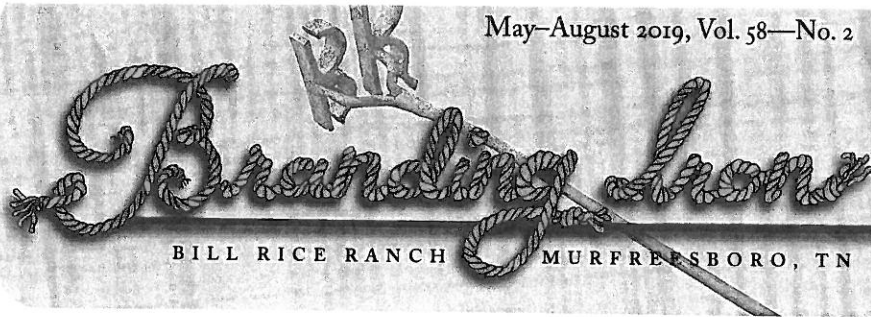
Youth Conference	
Peoria, AZ	Sept. 7
Ladies & Girls Night in the Pines	
West Branch, Williams, AZ	Sept. 13-14
Men & Boys Campout	
West Branch, Williams, AZ	Oct. 4-5

WEST BRANCH

Ladies & Girls Night in the Pines

Ladies and Girls of All Ages · Bring a Friend or Come Make One!

September 13-14 · West Branch, Williams AZ



From the President



No Place Like Home

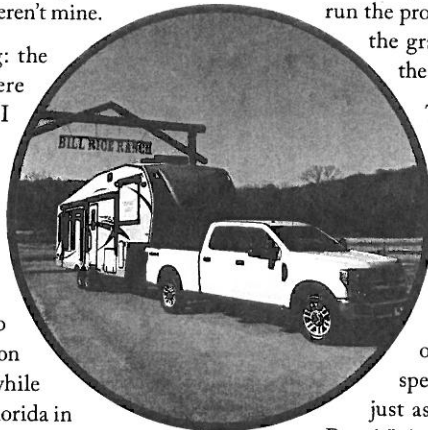
by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

Not long ago, I kissed my wife goodbye, caught a ride to the airport, then flew to my destination

more than eight-hundred miles away. When I arrived, a friend met me and drove me to the house where I would be staying for the week. I had the run of the whole house, and it was very pleasant indeed, with an unusually comfortable bed and a layout that felt instantly familiar.

But it just wasn't home. The week was profitable, the people around me were super-hospitable, and the church I attended Wednesday evening was fantastic! Yet I felt as if I were camping out, just temporarily making do with accommodations that weren't mine.

But here is the thing: the accommodations were mine! To be clear, I mean that I was on the Ranch in my own house near my own neighbors and attending my own home church. You see, I had flown back to the Ranch to catch up on some "home work" while my family stayed in Florida in our little fifth wheel.



Even though I was in my own house, I could not shake the sense that my home, complete with wife, son, and family dog, was in an RV at a Florida church! In fact, on numerous occasions throughout that week, whenever people would ask, I would tell them that I would be flying "home" on Friday night. Then I would catch myself and realize that I was actually already home but that my family was in Florida!

I have come to realize that I instinctively define "home" by the people more than by the place. The Bill Rice Ranch is my home, and I love it with all my heart, but it didn't feel like home without my people! That is why I feel like guests

have never really been to the Ranch unless they have been here when it is alive with people. In other words, visiting this place the day after Christmas doesn't count! In a way, I feel like such guests have missed the Ranch because they have missed the people who are the Ranch!

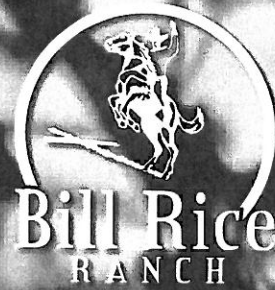
Now don't get me wrong, if the Ranch were anywhere else on the planet it wouldn't be quite the same. I am hopelessly in love with Middle Tennessee and our particular 1,300 acres of it. But as Dad has said scores of times, "The Ranch is people!" The Ranch was people before it even had a location. Those people are now largely the "neighbors" I referred to earlier. They animate the office, wrangle the horses, cook the meals, run the programs, clean the rooms, cut the grass, grease the wheels, lead the hikes, and serve the campers.

This summer, they will be joined by an additional component of Bill Rice Ranch, our summer campers! These friends, both deaf and hearing, young and old, from down the road and from across the ocean will be joining us at a special and scenic location. Yet just as surely as they are "on the Ranch" they are also "with the Ranch"!

They are with a staff who are here to welcome them and to help them have the time of their lives in a week that could make a difference for the rest of their lives.

Would you please pray for us as the Lord brings us to mind? Please pray for the high school, college, and full-time staff who are living by faith and investing in others. The quality of the Ranch is a matter of the people who serve here.

I can't wait for summer! I can't wait to see summer campers every week. And I can't wait to be on the Ranch with the people who make it home.



Inside this issue

Miles Upon Miles
by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch
Spring Photos & Need Focus

From West Branch
Deaf Camp This Summer in Arizona
by Evangelist Troy Carlson



Visit billriceranch.org for photos, videos, registration forms, and exciting opportunities!



Miles Upon Miles

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

It will be dark when we begin the trip. Mary and I should pull out of the Ranch just after

first light. We will be in a Ford F250 diesel and will be pulling a 30-foot Airstream travel trailer. This trip will cover over 4,000 miles and will include services in seven churches. We returned a week and a half ago from a 5,000-mile trip that took us to 19 churches.

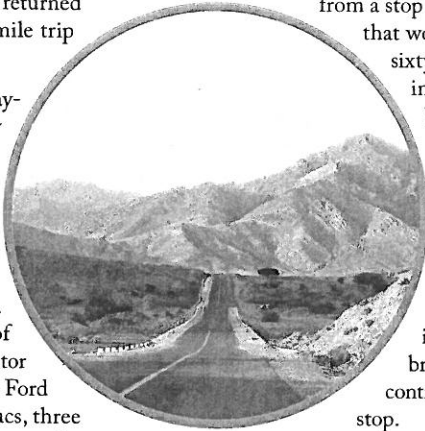
“Boy, a lot of travel,” you might be saying. But actually, this has been a fairly typical first three months of the year. Mary and I travel between 40,000 and 50,000 miles a year, and have since 1967!

“Isn’t that a lot of wear and tear on you two,” you might ask. Not really. The “wear and tear” has included a lot of cars, several pick-up trucks and one motor home. Three Chevy pick-ups, a couple Ford pick-ups, seven Mustangs, three Pontiacs, three Taurus SHO’s, one Contour, one Fusion and a dog of a 1971 Ford, to be more specific.

We love travel and I love cars and trucks. Good thing, don’t you think? For the most part, our cars have been vehicles that “handle” or drive well. Since we spend 1,000 hours a year in a vehicle, going someplace, I want it to be efficient and enjoyable. So, we have purchased mid-priced cars that go, turn and stop. Some would ask,

“don’t all cars do that?” Well, sort of, I suppose one could say.

Zero to 60 miles an hour should take place in seven seconds or less, preferably in about five seconds. Sixty to zero should happen in a little over a hundred feet. Now, I don’t drive away



from a stop light at a pace that would get me to sixty miles an hour in five seconds, but neither do I hit the accelerator and start waiting! I don’t “slam” on the breaks hopefully, but if I do use the brakes, I want a controlled, efficient stop.

Friends have told me that all they need to be involved in while driving is in the steering wheel, the go pedal and the stop pedal. I know, and that’s sad. You know, an eight-ounce steak will work in your digestive system if you just eat it. But why not enjoy it? It is a steak, friend. Think while you’re eating. Enjoy.

Our current car has eight cylinders, 435 horse power and six forward speeds. Ah, my dear

reader, traveling therein is a joyful experience. Of course, in the diesel, pulling the trailer, I don’t shift the transmission or stop in a few feet. But that truck and trailer do what they do – travel – with efficiency and for me, enjoyment.

I’ve had people shake their heads at me and say, “I’m glad my life is not all about travel, driving, buying fuel and vehicles.” My life is not all about those things. I am an evangelist. That is what I do. I help in a revival ministry. That is what I do.

“Well, but you travel a zillion miles every year.” True, but that is what I get to do in following God’s call in my life and I love it! A trip is an adventure to me. Mary and I have made the trip to Arizona many times, probably over 50 trips to West Branch. We start a new one tomorrow and I’m itching to get going.

I have a good friend, Les Garner, who with his wife, Donna, has served in Mexico for almost 50 years. They have started several churches and led many summer camps. He and his wife have seen hundreds of people come to the Savior. Three years ago I asked him when he would retire and come home to the States. His answer was simple and powerful.

“We’re already home, Bill,” he said. He is a pastor who happens to live in Mexico. And he loves it.

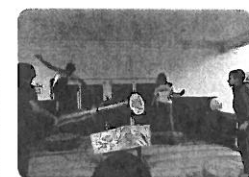
Bob Jones, Sr. used to say, “Success is finding the will of God for your life and doing it.” And it is important to know that God’s will is always good, pleasing and complete, even if it includes a trip now and then.

BACK AT THE RANCH...

BILL RICE RANCH



New York City Trip



Florida Day of Champions

NEED FOCUS

Full-time Staff Needs

Would you consider being part of our team at Bill Rice Ranch?

We are looking for help in these positions:

- Academy Teachers
- Facilities Manager at West Branch

Please email info@billriceranch.org if you are interested.



Deaf Camp This Summer in Arizona

In 1953, Bill and Cathy Rice blazed a new trail of ministry by offering the first camps for the Deaf in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The effort that summer was the culmination of several years of work to prepare the new campground for reaching people for Jesus Christ. Twelve Deaf attended that first year, among them the first of thousands to be saved through the ministry of the Bill Rice Ranch.

What started with modest attendance blossomed into a world-wide ministry. Not only did Deaf soon come from around the country to attend Deaf Camp, but also many others have been reached through special mission camps in other countries. Foreigners have also come to middle Tennessee from half a world away at times. The Lord has truly blessed.

In an effort to more easily reach Deaf of the West, the Ranch established West Branch in 1989, and, just like in Tennessee, held Deaf Camp first. The Lord also blessed these efforts with many coming to Christ from 1989-2004. Since moving from there to Williams, we have continued to have occasional contact with the Deaf of the West through special rallies as well

as incorporating deaf congregations into other West Branch events. Though we have held several years of summer camp in Williams, we have not yet been able to host a week for the Deaf.

That is about to change.

From July 15-19, we will hold the very first Deaf Camp on the Williams property. We are excited to be using both our regular summer staff as well as bringing in additional staff to speak to and counsel the deaf young people. All Deaf ages 9-19 will come to camp absolutely free for the special week! After so many years of time without being able to hold camp for the Deaf, we are a little anxious and excited about getting started again. Our prayer is that the Lord will bring young people who need to hear the gospel, and that we can help to win to Christ.

At the time of this writing, Tyler Thornton, Bill Rice Ranch Deaf Camp and Outreach Director, is visiting deaf ministries, churches, and schools in the West to let them know about the free camp this summer. He and his wife, Rebekah, have been visiting people in Arizona, Nevada, and California, and have been well received. They have also made contact with deaf agencies in

these states, many of which are passing on news of our camp to their contacts.

As we approach this special event, would you pray with us that deaf young people will accept our invitation? And please pray that many would be saved! We have also been raising funds to offset the cost of Deaf Camp and its promotion. At this point, we have raised approximately 75% of the anticipated need.

When Bill and Cathy Rice blazed that trail of deaf ministry, I am sure they had no idea where that trail would ultimately lead. It certainly went much further than the original twelve campers! Come July, we will just move a little further down that trail and trust the Lord to use us to see more Deaf reached for Christ.

Visit westbranchAZ.org for more information about attending or supporting Deaf Camp.

928.635.2097 | westbranch@billriceranch.org

Calendar OF EVENTS

SPRING RETREAT

Father & Son Adventure **May 17-18**

SUMMER CAMPS

Youth I/ Junior I/ Deaf I **June 10-14**

Day Camp I **June 17-21**

Youth II/ Junior II / Deaf II **June 24-28**

Family I **July 1-5**

Independence Day Retreat **July 4**

Youth III/ Junior III/ Deaf III **July 8-12**

Youth IV/ Junior IV/ Deaf IV **July 15-19**

Day Camp II **July 22-26**

Family II/ Deaf Adult Camp **July 29-Aug. 2**

Deaf Adult & Interpreters' Retreat **Aug. 2**

WEST BRANCH EVENTS

Junior Camp **June 24-28**

Family Camp **July 4-6**

Youth Camp I **July 8-12**

Youth Camp II **July 15-19**

Youth Conference **Sept. 7**

Ladies' & Girls' Night in the Pines **Sept. 13-14**

Men & Boys' Camp Out **Oct. 4-5**

FALL RETREATS

Elementary Retreat **Sept. 5-6**

Junior & Senior High Retreat **Sept. 12-13**

Ladies' Retreat **Oct. 3-5**

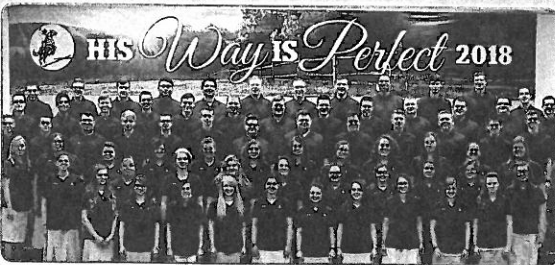
Men's Challenge **Oct. 31-Nov. 2**

Couples Retreat **Dec. 5-7**

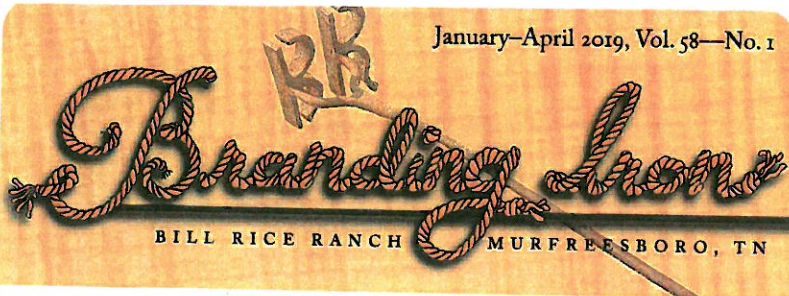
Very soon, approximately **100 summer staff members** will arrive at the Ranch to volunteer their time as counselors, operational staff, and Ranch Hand workers. Every one will come trusting God to provide their needs in response to their giving the summer to the Lord. **The Ranch is also trusting the Lord to provide** what we will give them as a weekly volunteer allowance to take care of minor expenses they have while here. We give out volunteer allowances weekly beginning **June 9**, before the first week of camp.

Would you pray about entering into this **FAITH PROJECT** with us? Whether you have a little or a lot that you can share, your gift will be greatly appreciated and reap eternal dividends. You might consider one of these **FAITH PROJECT** levels:

FAITH PROJECT Level	Gift Amount	Provides for
Level 1	\$50 gift	one counselor for one week
Level 2	\$135 gift	one Ranch Hand position for the summer
Level 3	\$270 gift	one operational staff member for the summer
Level 4	\$450 gift	one counselor for the summer



Everyone sending a gift marked "FAITH PROJECT" will receive a **personal note from a summer staff member** you are supporting, sharing how God has used them and worked in their lives this summer.



From the President

The Wonder of it All

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

December brings new distractions. Tasks grow, time diminishes, party plans demand to be born and then fed to maturity. We are busy out of our brains in the celebration of something we often do not stop to remember.

The birth and incarnation of God the Son are mind-boggling, yet we add to our seasonal stress even while resting our minds from the thing that really matters. Maybe we are too busy celebrating to consider what is such a big deal in the first place!

On the first Christmas, Caesar collected his taxes, Joseph and Mary traveled far to contribute to them, and shepherds watched their flocks as their fathers had done for centuries before them and as others do now. The world was about its normal business and busyness.

Then the night sky exploded, an angel appeared to some of those Judaeans shepherds and was joined by an army of angels who helped him praise God. After those shepherds sought and found Mary and Joseph and the Christ child, they left the three to declare to anyone who would listen both the message the angel had delivered and the manner in which he had delivered it.

Yet no angels attended the actual birth, as far as we know. It was unnoticed. It was by all appearances a common occurrence, the birth of a child. It was a very normal, physical event. So perhaps the shepherds with their fantastic story reminded Mary of just what a singular and wonder-worthy event this was!

Luke says, "And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart." Mary

had long before received her own angelic announcement. But after months of being an expectant mother, after miles of weary travel to arrive at this stable, and after long weeks had elapsed since she had heard from heaven, the shepherds' account must have shocked her, reminding her of the significance of what had just happened.

She "pondered" these things in her heart. What things? She pondered the fact that these shepherds, strangers to her but not to God, had found her and known where to look. She pondered the sheer magnitude of what the shepherds had experienced. She pondered that these strangers had received the same message that she had. She "brought together" in her mind all these elements and began to feel their import. She thought about it.

Something as colossal as the incarnation of God the Son can be hard to comprehend.

It deserves a little time to settle in. Years later, when Joseph and Mary unintentionally left Jesus behind in

Jerusalem and later found Him in the temple hearing and answering religious scholars, Mary made sure the child Jesus knew just how worried she and Joseph had been about Him. When Jesus replied, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?", the Bible says that "they understood not the saying which he spake unto them" but that Mary "kept all these sayings in her heart."

Sometimes we may not understand all that we think we do. We do not comprehend the birth of Jesus if it fails to put us in awe. We haven't thought about it much if we do not find ourselves asking, "How can these things be?" And we certainly won't get there unless we take a little time to gather all the facts around us, bring them together, and marvel at the wonder of it all.



Bill Rice RANCH

Inside this issue

Millions of Angels
by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch
Retreat Photos & Need Focus

From West Branch
It Takes Teamwork
by Evangelist Troy Carlson

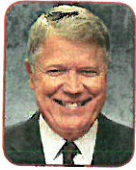
"The world was about its normal business and busyness."



Visit billriceranch.org for photos, videos, registration forms, and exciting opportunities!

Millions of Angels

by Evangelist Bill Rice III



It was a quiet evening, or so we are told. The stars were out, and a group of shepherds were watching their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared! You can understand that this would have been a frightening

event. The angel certainly knew that and the first thing he said to the shepherds was, "Fear not!" The angel went on to tell the shepherds that the Savior, Christ the Lord would be born in the city of David.

In Luke 2:13-14 the Bible says:

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

A heavenly host? How many were there? Well, Luke does not tell us, but there easily could have been millions. And these angels were praising God. How did they do that?

If he were alive today, George Frederick Handel would probably tell us that they spoke musically or sang. While the text does not specifically say that the angels sang, they well could have. And it is certain that the words they uttered were words of praise to God.

In the book of Psalms, the word *praise* occurs quite often, and many times it refers to music. Certainly one can praise God by simply speaking, but more often than not in the book of Psalms when the human author speaks of praise, he is talking about music.

Should you and I praise God? The answer is yes. And how would we do it? Well, one could simply make a statement in praising God. Practically speaking, however, when you and I praise the Lord, we do so with music. That is one of the reasons that congregational singing, as we often call it, is so important in a service in which the Bible will be preached.

Several years ago, I heard a message on praising God. The preacher said we should all praise God. That is obviously true. He said we should praise God continuously. That is also true. But when he was finished preaching, I wasn't sure how I was to accomplish this. The preacher seemed to be saying that in a service one should lift his voice and praise God. That, of course, would be fine. But this fine preacher did not state specifically how one could or should praise God. So again the question, How should we do it?

Music is a valid and effective way for you or for me to express our praise to God.

"Well, Bill," you might be thinking, "I really don't have a good singing voice." I'm with you on that. I don't have a very good voice either. But many of us who have voices that are inadequate in singing also have voices that are not very strong for simply speaking. Neither should keep us from praising God. And all of us can praise the Lord through music in a congregational setting, which would not draw attention to our performance while heightening the legitimate singing of praise.

May I make some suggestions? When you go to church, go with the intent of joining in and lending your voice to the business of singing! Those of you in leadership positions in the church should remember that while special music from people with musical gifts can be a blessing and an encouragement in a service, a Tennessean like me can still join in and have part in the service through congregational singing. If you are gifted in music, think seriously about using that gift in a way that includes simply singing from your heart to the Lord in a congregational song.

I do not know if the multitude of the angels in Luke 2 sang or simply spoke. There are two things, however, that I do know. The first is that the angels praised God and so should we. The second is that Christ's birth, life, and death on our behalf have generated millions of voices in song in time and will also in eternity.

BACK AT THE RANCH...

BILL RICE RANCH



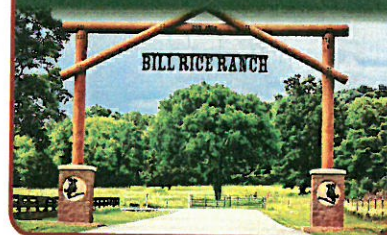
NEED FOCUS

Full-time Staff Needed

Would you consider being part of our team at Bill Rice Ranch?

We are looking for full-time help in our **Graphic Design/Publications** area.

Please email your resume to Nathan Watson at nwatson@billriceranch.org if you are interested.



It Takes Teamwork

It is a privilege to serve the Lord. And there are many ways to fulfill that mission. Sometimes people inordinately focus on the preaching roles of the Christian ministry, though certainly those are important. As a matter of fact, preaching is what God has called me to do. However, there is no higher calling than doing whatever it is God has called you to do.

Summer camp at West Branch provides a good illustration of how critical every job is to effective ministry. We define what we do at West Branch as C.A.M.P., which stands for a Controlled Atmosphere for the Ministry of Preaching. The goal is to have powerful, helpful preaching that will convince people of their need for Christ and persuade believers to wholeheartedly live for Him. To accomplish that goal, we need much more than one or two preachers! We need every member of our kitchen staff and the long laboring hours they give to serve the Lord. We need counselors who live with and interact with campers twenty-four hours a day. We need

those who can help with music. We need those who plan activities and skits. Every member of our summer team is invaluable.

While summer is our busiest time of the year, the Lord has seen fit to expand our year-round ministry. To continue, we need people willing to put their hands to the work here on site on a year-round basis.



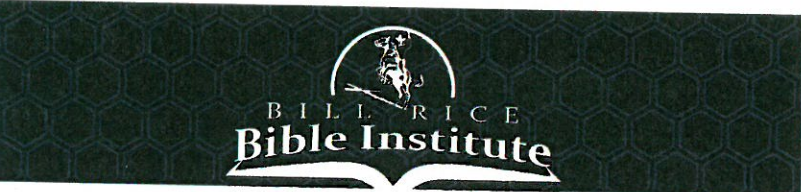
Contact us for more information on the staff position available.
928.635.2097
westbranch@billriceranch.org

We believe wholeheartedly that God will soon lead someone else to join our team at West Branch. With increased facilities completed and others in the works, we have a huge need for someone to handle the regular maintenance of these buildings and infrastructure as well as to complete other projects to enhance what we have. We also need help with food service in our expanding camps and retreats schedule.

We are praying for someone skilled in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and automotive who has energy for everyday hard work to pioneer this facility. We need someone with a heart to see people helped and a spirit willing to do what it takes to see the ministry accomplished.

Our staff is small and our resources are limited; however, we believe that the Lord has more opportunities available for us in the days ahead. This spring we will begin having senior trip retreats for Christian high school graduating seniors. Come July, we will hold our first deaf camp on the Williams property. In between, we expect several hundred others to join us for teen, junior, and family camps as well as regional conferences. To do all this, we need help, and we believe God will lead someone our way—the exact one—to help us see the Lord's work done.

The ministry is hard work, but the benefits are great. The ministry is about team work. Your role in serving the Lord is important, regardless of what your job description is. Be faithful to serve in whatever way God has called and enabled you to serve, and please pray with us that the Lord will soon connect us with the additional workers needed for this part of the harvest.



Bill Rice Bible Institute is in its fifth year of helping high school graduates take the next step in life.

Here is just a sampling of what Bill Rice Bible Institute provides:

- An **affordable college education** (At \$6,060 for the first year, BRBI is on average 50% less than comparable programs).
- **Two programs of study:** Certificate of Bible (one-year) and Associate of Christian Studies (two-year)
- **College-level classes** in Bible (Old and New Testament Surveys, Bible Doctrines), English, Ministry Philosophy, and more
- **Transferable credits** to other Bible colleges
- **Practical ministry experience** at Bill Rice Ranch and through the local church
- A **safe, trusted environment** for young people



Consider Bill Rice Bible Institute for your college education. Visit brbi.org and request an information packet to get started. Contact us at (615) 893-2767, ext. 122 or brbi@billriceranch.org if you have any questions.



Calendar

OF EVENTS

SEASONAL RETREATS

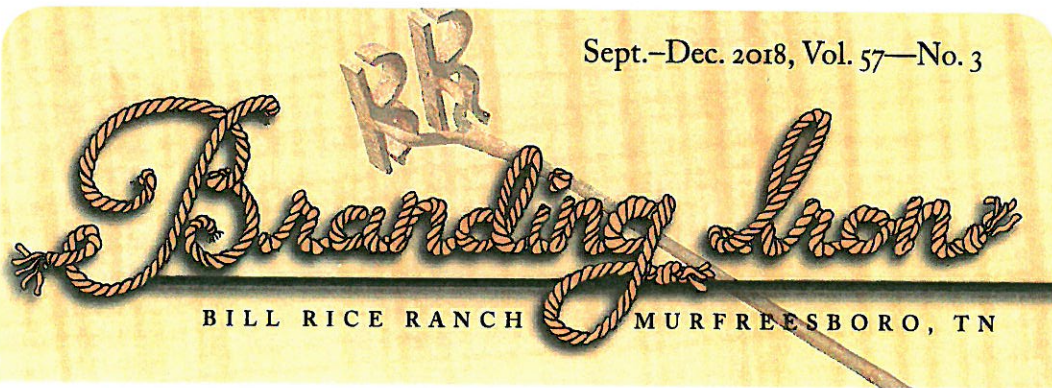
Day of Champions **April 27**
 Father & Son Adventure..... **May 17-18**

REGIONAL EVENTS

Florida Day of Champions
Land O' Lakes, FL **February 2**
 Men on the Move
Williams, AZ **March 22-23**
 Ladies' Spring Getaway
Flagstaff, AZ **April 27**

SUMMER CAMPS

Youth I, Junior I, Deaf I **June 10-14**
 Day Camp Week I **June 17-21**
 Youth II, Junior II, Deaf II **June 24-28**
 Family I **July 1-5**
 Independence Day Retreat **July 4**
 Youth III, Junior III, Deaf III **July 8-12**
 Youth IV, Junior IV, Deaf IV **July 15-19**
 Day Camp Week II **July 22-26**
 Family II, Deaf Adult **July 29-Aug. 2**



From the President

What Now?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

The Lord granted us a marvelous summer here on the Ranch and West Branch. And yes, there were hundreds of people of all ages who made life-changing decisions for the Lord Jesus. But what about the days ahead, as these good decisions are tested by a fallen world?

Some people have the mistaken notion that the difference between making a decision for the Lord and keeping that decision over time is primarily one's sincerity: "Did he really mean it?" But haven't we all made decisions that we genuinely meant, perhaps regarding the calories we count or the books we read, but then we never followed through? There is something more to keeping one's decisions than sincerity. Even a good decision needs encouragement, implementation, and discipline. The Bible calls the cultivation of this in others "making disciples."

So how does the Ranch follow up on the work of God in the lives of campers? Would a letter from a camp counselor or some literature from the Ranch be helpful? While I am sure these might be beneficial, nothing would be better than "boots on the ground." Wouldn't it be great if someone from the Ranch could make one visit to every city, town, township, burg, and borough represented at camp this summer to check up on every camper who made a decision this summer? The problem is, the sheer magnitude of such an endeavor makes it nearly impossible and, at the same time, completely inadequate for the purpose...if the Ranch is the primary player here.

But what if believers locally could follow up on campers in person and on a weekly basis? Now I know that you are probably way ahead of me; but this solution actually exists, and it

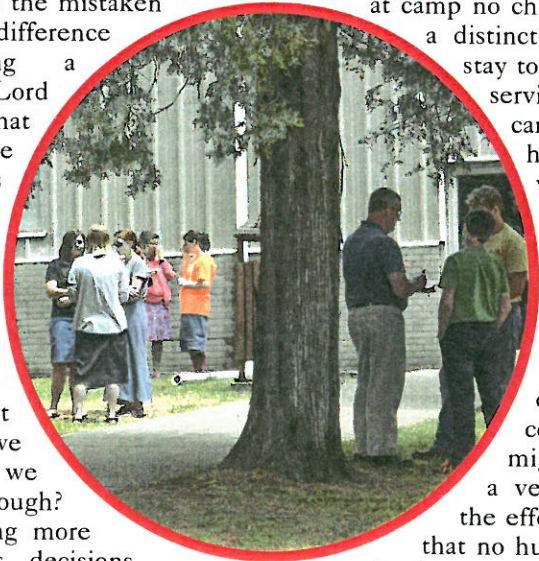
is not our idea. It is God's idea, and it is called the local church.

We do the work of an evangelist. Every counselor, each person on operational staff, and all of the full-time staff and Ranch Hands are part of that team. And it was a fantastic team this summer! But just as in a week of revival meetings held by an evangelist, so at camp no church group ceases to be a distinct group. Church groups stay together. They attend the services as groups. They enjoy camp as groups, and they have splendid fellowship with other groups from across the country.

While this gives camp staff a little less control than we might otherwise have, and while it requires even more effort and communication than it might otherwise, there is a very basic reason for all the effort. You see, we believe that no human influence at camp should be greater on a young person than the church that brought him! In truth, whether we believed that or not, that camper would still be going home with and to that church at the end of his week of camp!

Is any church perfect? No more than any family or government is perfect. And yet I have learned that we are hard-pressed to help a camper long term beyond his own church. That is why we encourage and host so many adults every week. If God works in the hearts of pastors, youth workers, and bus drivers, the campers will have the greatest chance for good discipleship and follow-up in the cool days of fall.

So, what now? Now is the time for the churches that prepared for camp as a group, stayed at camp as a group, sat in the services as a group, enjoyed camp as a group, and went home as a group to do what God has commissioned us all to do. Now is the time to cultivate the good work of God in the lives of hundreds. Now is the time to disciple..



Inside this issue

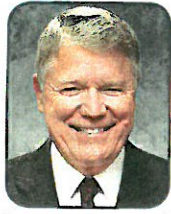
**A Look Back
& A Look Forward**
by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch
Summer Photos & Need Focus

From West Branch
Senior Trip Retreats



Visit billriceranch.org for photos, videos, registration forms, and exciting opportunities!



A Look Back & A Look Forward

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

It was Friday afternoon and time for the rodeo in the Nathan Kuntz Arena. "Any similarity between our rodeo and the real thing is purely coincidental," Dad used to say. And that is true. We don't have any bucking broncos. There is no calf dogging. There is no steer roping. There are just a many fun events that everybody can get involved in. The horse mount is a favorite. In this event, campers attempt to get on a horse – a tall one – without a saddle. Few succeed, but many do not!

The pig chase is always an exciting event. "Do you grease the pigs?" we are often asked. The answer is no, we don't. There is no need for it. The pigs are faster at running, juking, and darting than most campers of any age will be.

The sack race, the rope pull, and those kinds of events make it possible for anybody to enter.

I especially like the Family Week rodeo. Kids laugh at Dad and Mom, and parents holler and cheer for their kids. It really is great fun.

The one part of the rodeo that is real is the grand entry. Excellent horsemen on beautiful horses start the rodeo off with a galloping entry. First, Wil Rice comes in on Encore. The rodeo arena is fairly large, and Wil enters at a dead run. He and Encore circle the arena and wind up in the center facing the crowd.

Next, carrying the American flag is Cowboy Michael. Mr. Aulgur is the head cowboy on the Ranch; and he and his horse Anna come in at a dead run carrying the American flag. He is followed by Wilson and Zack carrying the Christian flag and the Tennessee flag. Everybody that enters the arena comes in with his mount running beautifully, circles the arena, and stops in a predetermined location. The American flag is in the center, and on the right and the left are the

Christian flag and the flag of Tennessee. We then stand for the national anthem (please don't tell the folks at the NFL); and, quite frankly, it is a moving time. After the anthem, the riders leave, once again circling the arena and exiting in a very fast gallop. This entry is guaranteed to give goose bumps!

Well, we have done the grand entry in the rodeo for many years now. Dad started the rodeo back when I was a teenager, and I can still remember riding in the grand entry myself with Dad leading the parade. Dad would ride in along with Mother and then a couple of cowboys and myself. I remember this well, because in the particular summer I am remembering, I rode a very beautiful but ornery horse – a golden palomino. The horse was beautiful to watch, but he was cantankerous. And while everybody else rode in gallantly, I rode in making sure that my horse behaved himself!

In 1976, my father had a stroke from which he would never fully recover. He went to be with the Lord in 1978. However, in 1977 he was able to walk with the use of a cane and to speak, though very haltingly. He would drive up every Friday to the rodeo and park his car in the arena, being sure not to block the gate so that the grand entry would be grand. I remember well, one rodeo when the cowboys rode in at a dead run. We stood and sang the national anthem, and then the cowboys rode out. A couple minutes later I walked over to the car to say howdy to Dad. When he rolled the window down, there were tears in his eyes. My father actually worked on a cattle ranch in West Texas in the early 1930s. He loved horses – in fact he loved animals of all kinds – and was an expert rider. He used to say that he did not remember the first time he ever got on a horse. He remembers

that his father, when riding a horse, would often come over to the porch where his son was watching, pick him up, put him on the saddle, and then ride with his son Bill around the ranch yard. When my father left the cow country of West Texas to go to Bible college, he never expected to return; but in a way, he did. When Dad and Mother founded the Bill Rice Ranch in 1953, Bill Rice lived the life of a cowboy and invited, at first scores and then hundreds and then thousands of people to "come apart and rest awhile" and enjoy life on a real ranch. In 1978, Dad went home to Glory, and one of my responsibilities then was to be in the grand entry. That continued until 2000 when Wil took over the leadership of the Bill Rice Ranch.

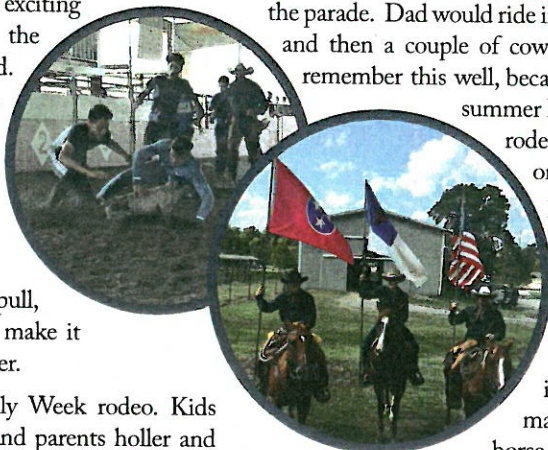
Now, the Bill Rice Ranch has come to the end of its 66th summer. And we still have the rodeo.

So is the Bill Rice Ranch a real ranch? Well, the answer to that is yes. We don't raise cattle, but we do raise horses. And the men who work with the horses on the Ranch in 2018 love their work as much as the founder did when he rode horses in 1953. But to say that the purpose of the Bill Rice Ranch is to raise horses would be as misguided as saying the purpose of its founder was to have rodeos or that the purpose of the current president is to ride in the grand entry. Yes, the Bill Rice Ranch did have rodeos forty years ago; but more importantly, it provided for times when godly men could preach the Bible to hungry hearts.

If you came to the Ranch in 1968, you probably do remember the rodeo with its "grand entry." But you doubtless remember something else with far more clarity. You came to a place where the Bible was preached faithfully and effectively, where you heard from God through His servant, and you learned eternal truths in an exciting setting.

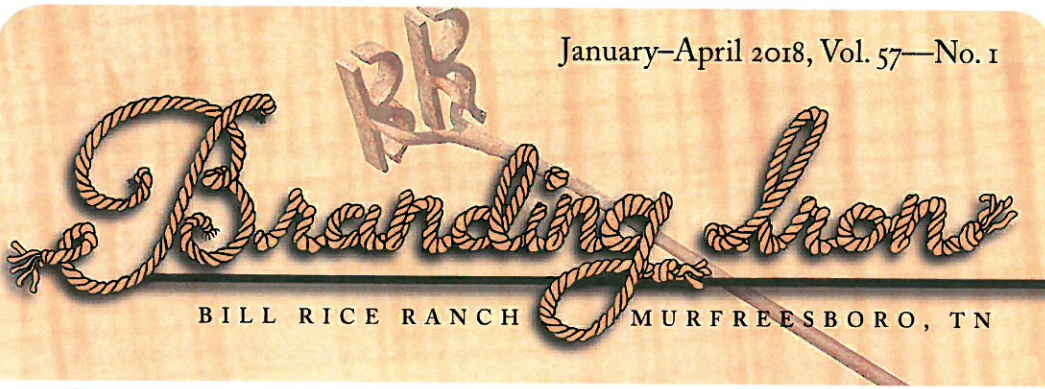
That's the way it was in 1968. That's the way it was in 1984; and most importantly, that's the way it is in 2018.

It's okay to have tears in your eyes because you witness a sight that brings back warm and happy memories. But the reason for those warm memories of the past and the expected experiences of the future is that they all support the preaching of the Bible.



BACK AT THE RANCH... BILL RICE RANCH





From the President

What Mountains Will You Summit?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

The Dream was born one year ago in August.

My family and I were at the opening meeting for the incoming students at Bill Rice Bible Institute when my daughter Lauren struck up a conversation with a student from Colorado.

Kristen had Lauren's complete attention when she began talking about one of our family's favorite topics: big mountains. My mom was born and reared in Denver, and I have passed along a love for hiking, skiing, and all things mountainous to my kids. It is by turns flattering and frightening to see how well I have brainwashed my children!

At any rate, that night Lauren got an idea that grew from a question into a determination and then a plan: she was going to summit a "14er." A 14er, as you may know, is a mountain that is 14,000 feet or more above sea level. For a little context, my house on the Ranch sits about 650 feet above sea level.

"Dad," Lauren asked after the service, "do you think I could hike a 14er?"

"Yes, I believe you could," I replied, not knowing the force of nature I had just unleashed.

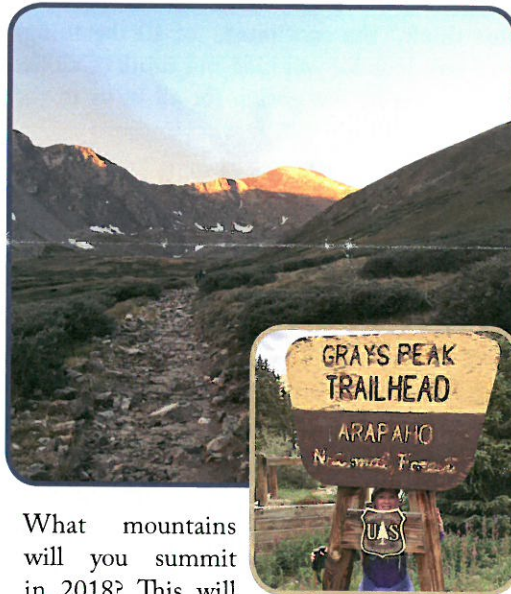
"Do you think we could try that sometime?" Lauren persisted.

"Surely!" I blurted.

And that is how we ended up quietly making the approach to Grays Peak in the cold pre-dawn of August 24. My wife Sena and son Wilson were also making this hike with us. We were all excited, but I was also mildly nervous. Grays has very little "exposure," but all it takes is going off one cliff one time to ruin your entire day. And I am a dad. Would the kids have the endurance to summit? Did Lauren really know what she was asking for?

I had no need to be concerned. As morning dawned, my kids hammered it while carrying on a robust conversation. They sang, talked, laughed, and talked some more, while I kept my words in my mouth so I could concentrate on breathing.

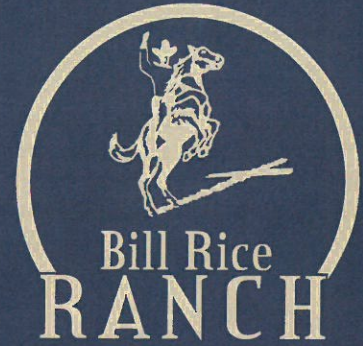
On the summit, we could see the distant world from the highest point on Colorado's Continental Divide. We summited by God's grace, but we did not stand there by accident. We stood there in the wind, suspended between heaven and earth because of a goal, a plan, and hard work.



What mountains will you summit in 2018? This will

never happen without a goal, a plan, and hard work. And your climbing to the summit won't matter if you climb the wrong mountain! Before we follow our ambitions in the New Year, it might be worth the time to consider what is really important in life and what aims are worth our time, the stuff of which life consists. For me, making a memory with my family was more important than standing above everyone else within a hundred miles.

At the Ranch, we are thrilled at the prospect of a New Year with all the young challenges and possibilities it brings with it. We are planning and praying for a new, second week of Day Camp outreach at the Ranch. We are excited about the new camp facilities that continue to be built at West Branch in Williams, Arizona. We are hoping to see our one thousandth person come to Christ at this year's sixteenth annual New York City outreach. And some of us are laying plans to summit our second 14er in August.



Inside this issue

A Christmas to Remember

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch

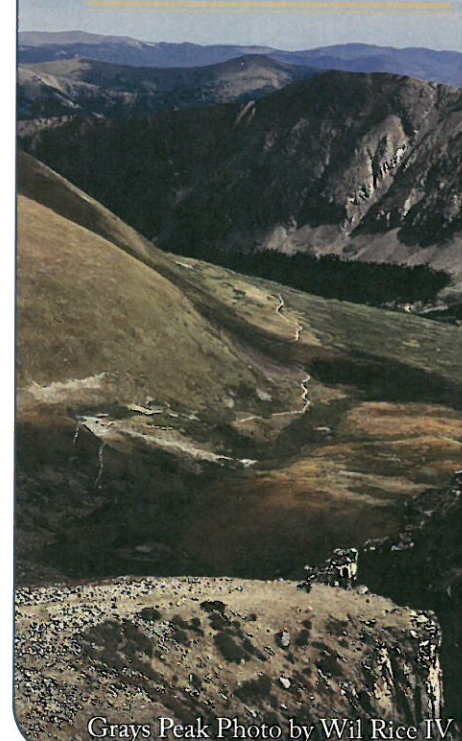
Retreat Photos & Need Focus

From West Branch

New Year's Revival

by Evangelist Troy Carlson

"...your CLIMBING to the summit won't matter if you climb the WRONG mountain."



Grays Peak Photo by Wil Rice IV

May–August 2017, Vol. 56—No. 2



From the President

What Will Last?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

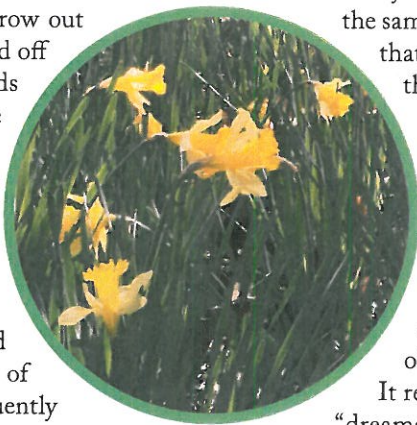
It was a gorgeous, almost-spring Saturday afternoon on the Ranch

when Michael, Wilson, and I rode out of a large pasture and into the shade of cedars and hickories. I have been riding the Ranch my entire life, but I was about to see something I had never seen before. The crazy thing is, it had been here the entire time! In fact, it had probably been here a hundred years before I began living on the Ranch.

There, by the scrub brush and hidden by the years, was a low-lying stone wall, shortened by the soil that had washed around it over the decades. It was like others I have seen on the Ranch; there are quite a few pioneer relics around here, if you know where to look. But I hadn't known where to look!

The wall seemed to grow out of the earth and trailed off into the woods towards Altar Mountain. The most striking aspect of the old stone wall was what lay just beyond it: a sprawling patch of daffodils. In Tennessee, daffodils bloom in March and announce the coming of spring. They also frequently indicate that people once occupied the space.

On our ride back to the barn that afternoon, I commented on how many people have lived on the place we now call the Ranch, the place I now call home. How many generations of natives, pioneers, and farmers had come and gone before we got here? These people were real, though they lived in a world we would not recognize. They built homes, planted food, and raised children. Then they melted back into the dust from which they came.



eternally on this earth. One day, each of us will be as obscure as the ancients; but any of us can leave a mark, and all of us should.

So, what will last? What can change, what should change, and what will most surely change with the passing of time? What is it that we have dreamed, planted, and built into existence that will weather the years and best represent what our time here meant?

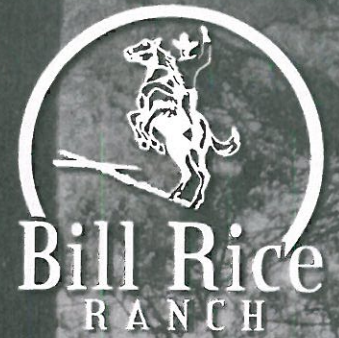
These questions are important to me because we are busy here every day! As I drove down to the office from the campground ten minutes ago, I saw men painting and others putting on a new roof. A half-mile down the Ranch drive, others are tearing off another old roof. In the office, teachers are planning, others are on the phone, and everyone is in a state of activity we call "busy." And while "busy" is not necessarily the same as "significant," I can honestly say that in each of these cases, I do believe that it is.

When deaf campers come to the Ranch this summer, they will be "hearing" and seeing the gospel in a completely renovated Roberson Auditorium. It still smells new! This renovation is the result of friends who gave generously and of those here who worked diligently.

It represents the many things we have "dreamed, planted, and built" this year.

But here is the important thing: long after a metal detector becomes the only way to find the rotting ruins of what is now a beautiful "new" facility, there will be people in Heaven because of the kind of investment the Roberson Auditorium represents. This kind of "labor is not in vain in the Lord"! All the work of this past year and of this coming summer is important, not because it is merely beautiful now, but because it is eternal. For every hour and dollar that has gone into the Ranch this year, people are laying up something in heaven that will

www.billriceranch.org



Inside this issue

The Style of Microphon

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch

Spring Photos & Need Focus

From West Branch

Giving Your Best for Small Things

by Evangelist Troy Carlson





The Style of Microphones

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Have you ever thought of a microphone as a fashion statement? Probably not, but it is. Yes, the dictionary says that a mic is “an instrument for converting sound waves into electrical energy variations, which may then be amplified, transmitted, or recorded.” That is true, but a mic is so much more.

There are times when a person is mic'd up; and it is important that you not see the mic, so you do not. An example would be a western story on TV, set in the 1870s. The actor needs a mic, but the visual story does not allow it to be seen. So you will not see the mic. More often than not, if you can see the mic on TV, it is part of the story. When a reporter in a storm is commenting on the weather on TV, you see the weather, the reporter, and the mic. All three are important to be seen. In the booth of a sporting event like a baseball game, those who give the play-by-play wear their mics with headsets, and you will see them.

Musicians best illustrate what I am saying. How often have you seen a vocalist who was singing but not holding a mic? Not very often. In fact, you have never seen it, unless the performer was playing a guitar or piano or some other instrument. Even then, the mic was very prominent. Those microphones are often held with care. In fact, I would

say they are displayed.

Campaigning politicians often use handheld mics. They become as much a part of what you see as the rolled-up sleeves or – in the case of the recent campaign – the pantsuit! It is all definitely style.

Preachers and microphones fascinate me. Some preachers like handheld mics. Others prefer mics that are small and attach to a lapel or shirt (my favorite). And some prefer a microphone on the pulpit. The current fashion craze for preachers is a microphone that hooks onto one's ear and has an arm extending along the cheek to the corner of the mouth. It is sort of a smaller version of what the sportscasters, Justin Bieber, and Madonna use. Okay, so you don't listen to the rock stars, but hopefully you have a mental image. Personally, I don't like those.

“But Bill,” every tech guru will say, “when you turn your head, the mic turns with you and the sound quality is so much better.”

Maybe, but I'm not buying it. Why not? Because I don't like the way they look!

“But Bill, mics are all about sound.”

No, microphones are about fashion also. Fashions change, and so one day millions may wear mics that appear to be nose rings that connect via blue tooth to one's smart phone so that they can talk to people whose earrings are actually speakers! Do not laugh.

Admittedly, the idea sounds absurd; but then we are talking fashion here.

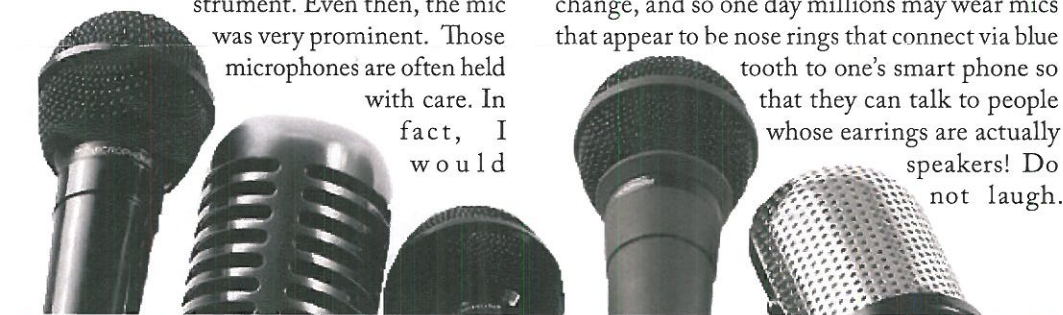
The human mic, known as the ear, is such a good little instrument. Often unseen, as in the case of a lady with flowing locks, an ear works without one having to speak directly into it. One can actually look into his wife's eyes while speaking. If some techies I have known had created humans, our ears would have been on either side of our nose! The style would leave me shocked even if the sound might be great. So do not be shocked when I say I do not like a mic, and I do not like it based on its appearance. And please admit when you like a mic based (at least partially) on the way it looks.

Wil was talking to his three children once about the emptiness of beauty. “Being beautiful does not make you happy,” he said.

“But Daddy,” his ten-year-old daughter said, “being ugly doesn't make you happy either, does it?”

So from the brilliance of a ten-year-old we learn that happiness does not depend on appearance. However, we all have preferences in appearance. It's all right to have preferences on the way things look. We all know that God told Samuel in 1 Samuel 16 that “...the LORD looketh on the heart.” What we see, while not as important as what God sees and knows, has a place of some importance to us. God knows the heart – I do not. I do know what my eyes see, and I have likes and dislikes. So I must trust God with what I can't see – Samuel did. And I might as well enjoy what I can see.

Good electronic sound does not come from appearance. That may be true. It is all right to look good, however; and I still like my ears on the side of my head!

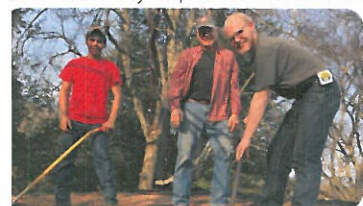


BACK AT THE RANCH...

BILL RICE RANCH



New York City Trip



Ranch Work Weeks



Florida Day of Champions



NEED FOCUS

Goodbye, red carpet!

As the home auditorium for our dear camps as well as a needed meeting place throughout the year, the Roberson Auditorium has been in desperate need of a facelift for quite some time. While the red carpet and two-toned walls have served their purpose for many years, it was time to bring the Roberson out of the seventies and into the twenty-first century. To accomplish this task, we were in need of \$8,500; and thanks to many friends of the Ranch who gave, the entire amount has been provided. Thank you for giving. The renovation has been completed!



West Branch by Evangelist Troy Carlson

iving Your Best for Small Things

Luke 7, the Lord Jesus enjoyed a meal in the home of a skeptical Pharisee named Simon. Wanting to see something that would reveal Jesus who He really was, Simon got his wish. Instead of a woman of the community—a woman known for her openly sinful lifestyle. She used her own tears and hair along with some very costly ointment to bathe the feet of the Lord Jesus.

Simon thought the Pharisee. Simon proves what I suspected. If Jesus were really a prophet, He would know the woman for who she is! Simon was right. Not only

Simon knew this woman for who she was—a repentant sinner loving her Savior—but He also knew Simon for who he was—a self-righteous, self-sufficient man who felt no need for a Savior.

At the end of the exchange, Jesus reprimanded Simon for his lack of common courtesy. Though Simon presumably had the advantage of a nice home with a sterling reputation to hold such a feast for the Lord, his service lacked the one quality that the woman personified—love. Jesus said

“The woman willingly rubbed costly ointment onto ordinary feet.”

to Simon, “My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment” (Luke 7:46).

Two contrasts are made in this statement. First, Jesus references the head and the feet. No doubt, the head is more important than the foot. I have known people to live without feet, but I have yet to meet someone who lived without a head! The second comparison is between the common anointing oil of the day and the woman’s precious ointment. Jesus identifies the fact that

while the woman willingly rubbed costly ointment onto ordinary feet, Simon had neglected the minimal courtesy of applying generic oil on the Savior’s head.

How it often is with us! It seems that when you love the Lord, you are willing to give your very best for simple, mundane tasks. When our love has dwindled, our spirits object to making the smallest sacrifice for Him! Perhaps we have forgotten the sacrifice He made for us? Perhaps,

Very soon, approximately **100 summer staff members** will arrive at the Ranch to volunteer their time as counselors, operational staff, and Ranch Hand workers. Every one will come trusting God to provide their needs in response to their giving the summer to the Lord. **The Ranch is also trusting the Lord to provide** what we will give them as a weekly volunteer allowance to take care of minor expenses they have while here. We give out volunteer allowances weekly beginning **June 10**, before the first week of camp.

Would you pray about entering into this **FAITH PROJECT** with us? Whether you have a little or a lot that you can share, your gift will be greatly appreciated and reap eternal dividends. You might consider one of these **FAITH PROJECT** levels:

FAITH PROJECT Level	Gift Amount	Provides for
Level 1	\$50 gift	one counselor for one week
Level 2	\$135 gift	one Ranch Hand position for the summer
Level 3	\$270 gift	one operational staff member for the summer
Level 4	\$450 gift	one counselor for the summer



Everyone sending a gift marked “FAITH PROJECT” will receive a **personal note from a summer staff member** you are supporting, sharing how God has used them and worked in their lives this summer.

like Simon, we overvalue our own place in this world. Whatever you do for the Lord today, do it because you love Him! Give your best for any service opportunity He brings your way.



God has been very good to West Branch! For news on our camps and events as well as the latest about our development progress (including the plan to build a 10,000 square foot dining hall), please visit westbranchAZ.org.



Calendar

OF EVENTS

SPRING RETREAT

Father & Son Adventure **May 19-20**

SUMMER CAMPS

Youth I/ Junior I/ Deaf I **June 12-16**
 Day Camp **June 19-23**
 Youth II/ Junior II/ Deaf II **June 26-30**
 Family I **July 3-7**
 Independence Day Retreat **July 4**
 Youth III/ Junior III/ Deaf III **July 10-14**
 Youth IV/ Junior IV/ Deaf IV **July 17-21**
 Youth V / Junior V / Deaf V **July 24-28**
 Family II/ Deaf Adult Camp **July 31-Aug. 4**
 Deaf Adult & Interpreters’ Retreat **Aug. 4**

WEST BRANCH EVENTS

Youth Camp I **June 19-23**
 Junior Camp **June 26-30**
 Family Camp **July 6-8**
 Youth Camp II **July 10-14**
 Youth Conference **Sept. 9**

FALL RETREATS

Elementary Retreat 1 **Aug. 24-25**
 Elementary Retreat 2 **Sept. 7-8**
 Junior & Senior High Retreat **Sept. 14-15**
 Ladies’ Retreat **Oct. 5-7**
 Men’s Challenge **Nov. 2-4**
 Couples Retreat **Nov. 30-Dec.2**