

Branding Iron

of the Bill Rice Ranch Murfreesboro, Tennessee



From the President

A Lesson From My Lab

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV



My tale begins almost exactly one year ago. It was bedtime in the Rice house, and I was ready to pray with my nine-year-old daughter, when the “dog subject” reemerged. “Daddy, can we get a dog this summer?”

“Well, uh...let’s pray about it, Lauren,” I replied. And there, like a hound from the kennel, it escaped my lips. I had brought God in on it, and there would be no turning back.

Lauren became a prayer warrior overnight. “I wouldn’t have a dog I couldn’t pray over,” my granddad used to say. Well, we did not yet have a dog, but we were praying over it, nonetheless!

The week before Labor Day we brought home a harmless-looking Chocolate Lab puppy. We named her “Breckenridge Double Diamond,” or “Breck” for short. I can tell you that nothing else has been shortened about her from that day until this. Now, several months later, she can eat a dog of her former size at one sitting! I was so proud that we spent only \$75 for a papered dog. And at the current rate of growth she will end up costing us less than a dollar a pound!

How could something so small and cheap at the outset end up being so big and costing so much? Add up the costs of chewed up valuables, truckloads of dog food, kennels, “Kongs” and a new fence for the backyard, and you will see that the initial cost of owning a dog is just the tip of the tail, Friend. Many of these costs are intended to appease or otherwise confine the draft horse someone passed off to us as a Lab “puppy.”

My wife has always been quick to remind me that Breck is just a dog. I have always felt a little insulted by the condescending tone of that word “just,” but I have found that no matter how much I like that mutt, Breck really is a dog, after all. No one reminds me of Breck’s true nature more than Breck herself by the disgusting, dog-like things she does and the revolting things she eats. Breck believes that anything is edible and that the world is her stage.

But because she is a dog, she must be kept

in check. Within the last week, she has learned how to escape the backyard through the smallest gate of opportunity. While an unsuspecting human is coming through her gate, Breck follows her lowered nose through the slimmest crack like a locomotive following it’s “cow catcher.” Give Breck an inch and she’ll tear up the yard! Before you know it, she’s gone, roaming the world at will.

Now, at the risk of trivializing the eternal, sin in your life is much like the dog in my yard: it grows when you feed it, costs more than you plan, has a nature that must not be overlooked, and is constantly looking for opportunities to have its way! (My wife often compares the dog to sin!) With a dog these things can be funny, but with sin these things can be fatal.

Ephesians 4:27 warns, “Neither give place to the devil.” Do you mean to tell me that a believer can make room for Satan in his life? You had better believe it! If it were not possible, God would never have mentioned it. God’s Word is filled with stories of God’s people who fed the flesh, ceased hating the nature of their own sin and ended up paying more than they bargained for because of the inch they gave the Devil. An inch is all he asks.

We are always shocked when a friend is taken by scandal. But all sin is scandalous by nature, even in its fuzzy puppy stage. Continue feeding it, and it will become a beast you cannot contain. Temptation rarely looks bad and never ends well. The Devil need not jump the fence or dig his way in if you are obliged to crack the gate for him.

Big liars have always had practice, brazen thieves usually start small, and festering bitterness begins as a sliver of anger unattended. Sins that begin small grieve the Spirit of God and harm the Body of Christ. What better way for the Devil to hurt the Father than to deceive His children?

“Neither give place to the devil.” What can we learn from this? See your sin for what it is. Feed nothing that would nourish it. Hate it and don’t crack the gate.

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The Bill Rice Ranch: A Revival Ministry

by *Evangelist Bill Rice III*

Have you ever heard the statement, "The Bill Rice Ranch is a revival ministry?" How about this one – the Bill Rice Ranch is a **C**ontrolled **A**tmosphere for the **M**inistry of **P**reaching, a camp. The Ranch follows the rich tradition of the brush arbor camp meetings where a rural society would come together for a period of time to hear the preaching of the Bible.

Dad, the founder of the Ranch, was an evangelist. Now, 54 years later, the Bill Rice Ranch is still led by an evangelist, Wil Rice. The heartbeat of the Ranch is now and always has been revival and revival preaching. So what is revival and what is revival preaching?

Revival, by definition, is a return to the Bible. It is a return to Bible truth, to Bible principles. When God's people drift toward the worldly system or instruction on raising children, for example, revival calls them back to God's Word and His standard. When God's children become complacent about reaching the lost or seem to walk in step with the world's cadence in their path of life, revival says, "Hear God's truth, not the world's drum beat." When Christians are in the world and of the world, revival demands an about face. How desperate is the need for revival in the year 2007? Revival

is a return to the Bible.

Revival preaching is the clear call to revival. Among the gifts the risen Christ gave to the church, the evangelist, called of God, stands with the pastor and people of God, heralding all that God has said through the apostles and prophets in God's Word, the Bible.

Years ago, a dear friend of mine who is now with the Lord, came to the Ranch for a week of camp.

"You don't have a camp here," he said to me at the week's conclusion, "You have a conference center." He was *not* on target. His statement came from an incorrect bias he had about the definition of a camp. A camp to him was a place where young people are challenged through a variety of means. One youngster might be encouraged to godliness after a walk in nature, another through a chat with a counselor, and still another through a sermon given in the morning chapel time.

He had somehow missed the truth that it pleases God to use the preaching of His Word. He had seen the walks through nature that week. He had counseled young people. He had heard messages. Somehow, however, it had not



clicked in his mind that all of these things at the Ranch had pointed to the preaching of the Bible. At the Ranch, every counselor, every cowboy, every interpreter, every permanent staff member, and every preacher has a part in making this place a platform for the proclamation of the Word of God. God's hand of blessing has been on this ministry for over 54 years – a Revival Ministry.

Mark your calendar *now* to join us for a retreat *this fall*.

Bring along a few friends as well!

Aug. 31-Sept. 3..... Deaf College & Career Retreat

Sept. 7-8..... Elementary Retreat

Sept. 14-15..... Youth Conference

Oct. 11-13..... Ladies Retreat

SPEAKERS Marilee Schettler, Mary Rice, Wil Rice IV

Oct. 18-20..... Senior Adult Conference

Nov. 1-3..... Couples Retreat

Nov. 8-10..... Master's Men Conference

SPEAKERS Jim Schettler, Wil Rice IV, Bill Rice III

Dec. 6-8..... Couples Retreat



Getting Ready for Camp

Thank you to each of the churches, Christian schools, and individuals who have given their time to help accomplish these tasks this spring.

- ✓ John R. Rice Auditorium exterior painted
- ✓ Pastures cleared, brush removed
- ✓ New Junior Dining Hall floor
- ✓ Saddles repaired
- ✓ Other painting & staining



JRR Aud. re-painting in progress



JRR Aud. re-painted



Patio floor in progress



Patio floor finished

Better Yet

Easter Sunday I had the privilege to preach at a church in Yuma, AZ. As you might expect I preached on Christ's death and resurrection. Both His death on the cross and His rising from the dead proved He is God. These are wonderful truths—pivotal truths, actually—to our entire faith.

Following the service a faithful lady there told me that 25 years earlier on Easter Sunday she had accepted Christ as her Savior. In fact, it was considering the resurrection that convinced her to trust in Christ.

I must admit that when she started telling me the story, my mind was immediately distracted by two thoughts. First, I realized I have been saved for more than 25 years—29 years to be exact. Secondly, it occurred to me that my spiritual birthday was around this time of year. I guess I had not thought about it because I do not know the exact date that I was saved, but I do recall it was in April of 1978.

You know, it really is a blessing not only to *be* saved, but to *know* it. Many people struggle with the assurance of salvation. Some should. If you have never made the decision to trust Christ to save you, or shall I say, if you think *you* can save you, you have no reason to have assurance of salvation. A person is saved after

he realizes he *can't* save himself from sin and God's judgment. Someone trying to get himself saved is trusting himself not Christ. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Yet there are people who have placed their trust in Christ, and still struggle with doubts. The devil often uses a believer's sin to raise doubt about the genuineness of his faith. What a blessing it is that I John 3:20 says, "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." God is not pacing back and forth in heaven wondering who is really saved. He knows!

But greater than this is verse 21, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us *not*, then have we confidence toward God" (emphasis added). Do you know what's better than God knowing you are saved? God *and you* knowing you are saved. And that is settled by answering this question, "Have you made the decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior?"

I John 5:12-13 says, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." Believing in Christ is what

makes a person saved. That is why John begs these people to whom he wrote to get their eyes back on what makes a person saved in the first place—believing in Jesus Christ. "I can't do it. Jesus Christ can. I trust Him to do for me what I cannot do for myself."

Do you have that confidence? You can, and you should.

BACK AT THE RANCH...

Deaf Ministry in Full Swing

Our Deaf ministries are continually on-going and growing. You may know about the summer camps coming up—there are six weeks for Deaf teens scheduled with three of them already full—but did you also know that the Ranch has **seven Deaf Rallies** in six

states from Florida to New Jersey this spring? At this writing, five have been completed with over 300 people attending! Deaf ministries coordinator, Evangelist Nathan McConnell has headed these up with Evangelist Ronnie Rice attending several of them.

Brother McConnell has also held **two sign language courses** in Texas and North Carolina resulting in the formation of two new church deaf ministries in 2007.

Missionary Bob Himes is conducting our annual **deaf camps in the Philippines** this spring. And don't forget Sign Language School and Interpreters' Seminar held July 22-26 at the Ranch to train Deaf workers laboring in local churches around the country.

This fall the Ranch will also host the **Deaf College & Career Retreat** August 31-September 3. Some groups are already lined up to attend this inaugural event.

And then there is *Signs of Revival*, a quarterly email newsletter for Deaf and Deaf workers.

For more information about these and other Deaf ministries of the Bill Rice Ranch, contact Evangelist Nathan McConnell, Deaf Ministries Coordinator, at deafministries@billriceranch.org or 1-615-893-2767, ext. 112.

Building for Tomorrow

Programs helping teenagers live for the Lord

WEST BRANCH  **Youth on the Move**

Training teens who love the Lord on how to arrive at God's will for their lives

Two Locations to Choose From:

June 21-23
Quality Inn & Suites,
Glendale, AZ



Jim Cook
Evangelist



John Goetsch
Evangelist

June 28-30
Comfort Suites,
Victorville, CA



Jim Cook
Evangelist



Jim Schettler
Pastor

Both sessions led by Evangelist Troy Carlson

Youth Conference:
TARGET '07

Teens Taking Aim at Reaching Their Generation for Christ



September 8 Phoenix, AZ

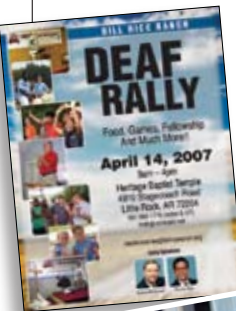


Ron Reilly
Evangelist

Needs at the Ranch

- Mig Welder
- Jack Hammer
(Electric or Air Compressor)
- Rock Auger
- Leather Sewing Machine
- Concrete Mixer
- Sheet Metal Brake
- Compound Miter Saw

If you have a lead on any of these items or you would like to make a donation of one of these items to the Ranch, please contact Dale Stover, 615-893-2767, ext. 105 or dstover@billriceranch.org





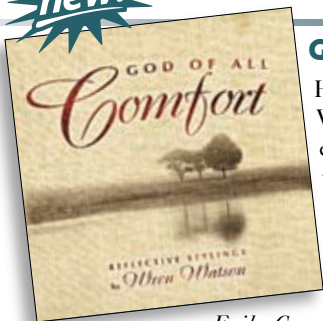
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Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS



God of All Comfort

Hear reflective stylings by Wren Watson. Piano and vocal solos enhanced by the recorder bring variety in song to the listener. Old-time favorites as well as new songs will encourage and uplift the soul. Songs include: *You Are My Hiding Place*; *Our Father Never*

Fails; *Count Your Blessings*; *My Joy Is Full*; *You Are Faithful*; *Give Me Jesus*; and more. CD—\$12.00

Special purchase opportunity!

Now is the time to stock up on some great Christian music! In conjunction with the release of our newest recording, *God of All Comfort*, we are offering you a great way to save. You are invited to purchase our latest CD along with any other two Bill Rice Ranch recordings for only \$30.

Please mention promo code BISP07 when you call.

Special pricing not available online. Offer valid until June 30, 2007



NOTE: Prices DO NOT include shipping & handling.

For orders, call **1-800-253-RICE, ext.117**
or visit our website www.billriceranch.org

Homeschool Camp & Competition

Know any homeschool families in your area? Let them know about our first ever **Summer Homeschool Camp & Competition, August 5-8.**

The **summer** camp and competition replaces our **spring** homeschool retreat and will offer many opportunities including Fine Arts Competition, swimming, horse back riding, rodeo, Cowboy Town, fellowship with other homeschool families from across the country, and so much more!



Wil Rice IV



Bill Rice III



Chris Miller



For brochures, further details about the competition, or to register, contact us at **1-800-253-RICE** or registration@billriceranch.org

Bill Rice Ranch Summer 2007

- June 10-15** Junior I (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth I (Miller, Cook)
Deaf **FULL** (R. Rice, Snare)
- June 17-22** Junior **FULL** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth **FULL** (Wyles, Goetsch)
Deaf Week II (R. Rice, Snare)
- June 24-29** Junior III (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth III (Coyle, Redlin)
Deaf Week III (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 1-5** Junior IV (Ranch Evangelists)
Family Week
- July 8-13** Junior V (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth IV (Thompson, Schettler)
Deaf **FULL** (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 15-20** Junior VI (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth V (Downs, Reilly)
Deaf **FULL** (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 22-26** Deaf Adult Conference
Sign Language School
- July 29-Aug. 3** Junior VII (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth VI (Carlson, Stone)
Deaf Week VI (R. Rice, Snare)
- Aug. 5-8** Homeschool Camp & Competition

New promotional DVD
Those Who Know Us Best.
Contact us for a free copy
for your church!

