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## What Will It Take To Make You Happy?

*by Evangelist Wil Rice IV*

Ah...the great outdoors! What could be more idyllic than a clear lake, a blue sky, bacon sizzling on the fire, and coffee brewing in the open air? You are miles from modern life, the fast pace of the city, the worries of home. You are also miles from a real bathroom, the convenience of a kitchen, and the safety of your house. Smoke follows you relentlessly around your campfire as if it knows who you are and is determined to pursue you into exhaustion. A Select Comfort mattress means deciding whether to lay your sleeping bag over a tree root or the pile of rocks your son collected while you set up the tent!

Let me say that I have surrounded myself with photographs of past wilderness excursions with friends. A picture of my hike into Never Summer Wilderness is now in view across my office. A group shot of Desolation Wilderness is on my desk. My cell phone display is a scene from our hike to the Maroon Bells of central Colorado. But if I lived outside all the time I would surround myself with pictures of the comforts of my home here on the Ranch, even if it meant I had to draw them in the mud with a pine branch!

It takes more money to rough it as a family than it does to spend a quiet, comfortable, climate-controlled evening at home. We recently spent a king's ransom at Wal-Mart buying camping supplies in a weak attempt to make the outdoors more like the indoors. The irony of our own recent family campout is that we are currently renovating our kitchen, the same kitchen we spurned for Dixie cups and mosquitoes.

The amazing thing about all of this is... we had the time of our lives! Why? It was not primarily because our family was together. It wasn't because we had escaped the rigors of the daily grind. And it certainly was not because we had a good night's sleep! We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves because we had decided beforehand that we would. We had planned, prepared, and paid up to have fun. I told my kids we were going to have a great time, I couldn't afford not to have fun, and so we did!

I learned long ago that people enjoy what they want to enjoy. It is a matter of attitude. Three

hours on concrete bleachers in a frigid stadium may be fun to you, but it is only enjoyable because you have decided it should be. A picnic is the first step to family camping and makes about as much sense, but you determine to be content! How important attitude is, and how crucial for parents to shape their children's attitudes in the right way!

We spend much of our time as a family living (not camping) in a forty-foot fifth wheel. I don't need to remind my kids of the disadvantages of such accommodations; griping comes naturally. But if I could choose to enjoy camping with my family, why not highlight every advantage of traveling in evangelism? I want my children to grow up not only happy with our life on the Ranch and on the road, but delighted with God's will for us.

Paul wrote in Philippians 4:11, "...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Paul knew that he was where God wanted him to be and that he was doing what God wanted him to do. He had contentment that came through the Christ Who strengthened him as he lived in obedience. Even Paul's dire conditions under arrest would be to the furtherance of the Gospel, so he rejoiced.

What will it take to make you happy? The answer to that question will depend on whether you see yourself as a slave of circumstance or a servant of God. Paul considered his options and said, "...I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even unto bonds; but the Word of God is not bound." May God give us the wisdom and strength to be content with Him and pass this heritage on to our children.

**"I told my kids**

**we were going to have a great time... and so we did!"**





# Continuing to Continue

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Mary and I were with Wil, Sena, Nathan and Wren for supper at a nice restaurant in Murfreesboro. Our son-in-law Lee and our daughter Wendy live six hundred miles away. But sometimes, even though Wil, Sena, Nathan and Wren live on the Ranch, as we do, summer busyness makes it seem they are no closer than our family in Northern Virginia. At any rate, it was nice to spend time with our son, daughter and their mates.

When the waitress returned my credit card so I could sign the slip, she asked a simple question. "Are you the Bill Rice that owns the Ranch?" she said handing me the little piece of paper that would diminish what I do own.

"No," I said, "my father began the camp in 1953, and my son leads it now. I don't own any of it. The Ranch is a non-profit organization."

"Oh, that's nice," she said.

Her question and my brief answer made me think of two things. First, my mention of my father and my son caused me to reflect on the truth that the Bill Rice Ranch, under its third generation of leadership, is basically the same ministry it was under its first generation. Personalities differ, of course, but to hear Wil

preach or to read what he says, reminds me very much of the principles I heard from Dad!

When the waitress asked if I owned the place that bears Dad's name, I was reminded that he didn't, I don't and Wil doesn't.

This revival ministry is supported through the free will giving of God's people. The Mission Fund here exists for the purpose of providing support for those on staff here. The need in the Mission Fund alone is over \$40,000 a month. The Building Fund is for the purpose of building and renovation—a never ending responsibility. The Campership Fund provides for deaf young people who come to the Ranch without cost to them.

When you invest in the Ranch with a gift of any amount, you are supporting a ministry that belongs to the Lord and His people just as it did in 1953. And when you support this ministry in 2007, you are helping a place that serves in the same way it did in 1953. That is amazing when you think of it.

Recently at church, a lady who lives near the



Ranch told me about a conversation she had with her brother who lives half a country away from us. Both this dear lady and her brothers had been campers on the Ranch twenty plus years ago. He had asked her if the Ranch still had the same kind of preaching and the same standards it had when they were campers.

Her answer to her brother was that the Ranch is the same. When she was telling me of her conversation with her brother, her eyes smiled as she said, "That is just really something!"

Well, the Ranch is still the same, and that really is something! Prayerfully consider helping us continue to continue.



## Retreat to Advance!

Come see us this fall for refreshment and help from the Bible during one of these remaining 2007 retreats.

Oct. 11-13 .....Ladies Retreat  
SPEAKERS Marilee Schettler, Mary Rice, Wil Rice IV

Oct. 18-20 ..... Senior Adult Conference  
SPEAKERS Wil Rice IV, Matt Downs

Nov. 1-3 .....Couples Retreat  
SPEAKER Bill Rice III

Nov. 8-10 .....Master's Men Conference  
SPEAKERS Jim Schettler, Wil Rice IV, Bill Rice III

Dec. 6-8 .....Couples Retreat  
SPEAKER Wil Rice IV

For brochures or to register, contact us at 1-800-253-RICE or [registration@billriceranch.org](mailto:registration@billriceranch.org).



## Here is how you can help:

You can be a part of the Bill Rice Ranch by prayerfully sending support to this ministry. You may choose to send support to the **Mission Fund** which cares for those on staff. You may support the **Building Fund**. You may choose the **Campership Fund** which makes a free week at camp for deaf young people possible. Pray about being a help. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Needs at the Ranch

- Hay
- 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](mailto:dstover@billriceranch.org)

## Want Some Advice?

Advice—to be honest, it really rubs me the wrong way. I guess that is nothing but a blunt admittance of my own pride. Really, it is a shame that I don't like advice because advice generally is helpful. In fact, I am often benefited greatly when I listen to advice.

Advice comes in all shapes and sizes, and truly there is a lot of advice that is not worth listening to. For instance, when my wife and I were expecting our first child (about this time of year 11 years ago), everyone and his brother had advice for how to get the baby to be born earlier. None of it worked (at least what we chose to try), but it did have a good result: we purposed to never offer that kind of advice! But in spite of ourselves, we probably have. That's the thing about advice: it is more enjoyable to give it than to take it.

But, you know, advice really is beneficial. I can think of a number of times I have had a good idea and someone has advised me to change the idea just a little bit. My pride may not appreciate it, but I end up appreciating it plenty when the advice helps my plan work better. Then there are those times when the advice I receive is completely opposite

of what I have been planning to do. I really hate that...but...often it was just the advice I needed. Have you ever felt like your job in life is to come up with a bad idea so someone else can advise you of a better way to do it? It's not true, but there goes that pride again, this time masquerading as self-pity! It seems, though, the Lord did make it easier for us to see what other people's ideas need than to see what our own ideas need. I guess that's just what a fresh perspective can provide.

Advice is very important to our ministry. We have excellent, thoughtful people at the Bill Rice Ranch who give great advice. We also have an Advisory Board that will be meeting soon to...offer advice. For the past several months we have been anticipating a set of engineers' reports concerning the infrastructure of the new West Branch facility under construction—more advice. And, while it does require wisdom to wade through the advice, the advice itself (one way or another) is helpful.

So, let me give you a piece of advice! The next time you balk at receiving advice, remember Proverbs 13:10: "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well *advised* is wisdom."

## BACK AT THE RANCH...

### A Summer to Remember

Many things will come to mind to the summer staff members who volunteered their efforts at the Ranch this summer. Certainly among them will be the fact that church groups came from **25 states** including New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida, New Mexico, Arizona and California. This was also the **largest Deaf Week** attendance in the last five summers. Family Week was one of our largest in recent years. A **second Family Week** has been added to the 2008 summer schedule. And hundreds of friends joined our Family Week campers on the 4th of July for our annual Independence Day Retreat. The John R. Rice Auditorium was packed for the Wednesday evening service.

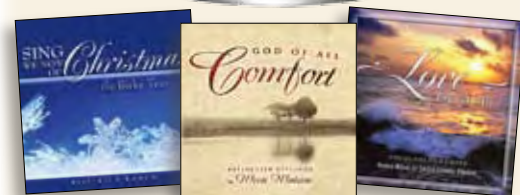
### 2007 Summer Staff



## Fresh New Music from the Ranch!



Let your church choir, singing groups, soloists, and pianists know about our great selection of music! **Listen online** to our newest recording – *Show Me Lord* – [www.billriceranch.org/publications](http://www.billriceranch.org/publications)



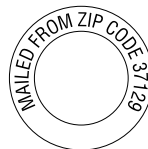
Whether you listen in the car, at work, or at home, our CD's will bring hours of enjoyment and encouragement to your day.

### A Great Start to the Fall

Only a brief break was taken in between our Summer schedule and our Fall Retreat schedule. Before the middle of September, the Ranch had already hosted four retreats including two elementary retreats, Youth Conference and the inaugural Deaf College & Career Retreat. During these same four weeks, two events were held in conjunction with **West Branch on the Move**: a Deaf Rally and a Youth Conference, both in Phoenix, AZ.



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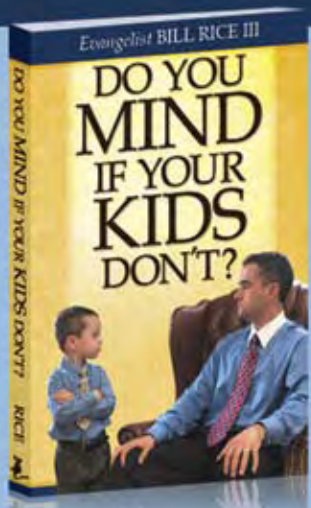


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**new!** **Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS**

In *Do You Mind if Your Kids Don't?*, **Evangelist Bill Rice III** encourages every parent to believe God's promises and to live by them. Parents can still rear godly, obedient children when they decide to follow God's way.

This book gives helpful, straightforward teaching on everyday issues that parents face within the home. It will challenge your thinking and give you the tools you need to train your children. *206 Pages*



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**Click here to sign up for email updates from the Ranch!**

NOTE: Prices DO NOT include shipping & handling.

**Summer 2008 SCHEDULE**

**June 8-13 Junior I** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth I** (Carlson, Reilly)  
**Deaf Week I** (R. Rice, Snare)

**June 15-20 Junior II** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth II** (Knowles, Cook)  
**Deaf Week II** (R. Rice, Snare)

**June 22-27 Junior III** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth III** (Downs, Hardy)  
**Deaf Week III** (R. Rice, Snare)

**June 30-July 4 Junior IV** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Family Week I** (Hardy, Obero)

**July 6-11 Junior V** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth IV** (Thompson, Hightower)  
**Deaf Week IV** (R. Rice, Snare)

**July 13-18 Junior VI** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth V** (Miller, Redlin)  
**Deaf Week V** (R. Rice, Snare)

**July 20-24 Deaf Adult Conference**  
**Sign Language School**

**July 27-Aug. 1 Junior VII** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth VI** (Coyle, Schettler)  
**Deaf Week VI** (R. Rice, Snare)

**Aug. 3-7 Family Week II** (Flanders)



**Sign Language School & Interpreter's Seminar, July 20-24**

**NEW! 2 Family Weeks**  
**June 30-July 4 AND August 3-7**



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