



Branding Iron
of the Bill Rice Ranch Murfreesboro, Tennessee



From the President

The Gospel Isn't "Old News"

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

The town was Gainesville, Texas. The year was around 1887, and a thirty-something-year-old cowboy named Will Rice was attending a revival service where he heard the Gospel. He was lost but objected strenuously when a friend pressed him to trust Christ at the conclusion of the service. Remarkably, he was back again a few nights later. His friend didn't want to anger him, but he could not restrain himself from speaking again.

Rice was a moral, hard-working sinner, and he was thoroughly offended by his friend's repeated appeal. "I told you not to confront me again! You have turned me away from the house of God, and I hope it makes you happy!" With that, he snatched his Stetson and marched out the back door of the church house.

Will was done with that church, but God was not finished with him. Back home, he called for sleep, but it scampered out the door like a whipped puppy. Finally, about four o'clock in the morning, William Rice admitted his need and Christ's sufficiency. He was the first one back at the church that morning for the 5 A.M. prayer meeting. That is a good story, isn't it? But is this still possible today?

Let me reply by saying first that the Gospel that saves is not new. It is God's eternal plan for modern man. "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." This is the Gospel which is "not after man," as Paul stated in Galatians, "but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Jude refers to the "faith which was once delivered unto the saints." This is the Gospel of Acts that ignited the world!

In contrast to God's timeless Gospel, we tend to be slaves to the here and now, confined to our little province of friends, time, and place. Most of us don't remember what state is 1,000 miles to our east or west. We show little interest in what happened ten years before we were born and disinterest in what will happen one year after we are gone. By nature, we tend to be shortsighted and infatuated by fads.

But I must hasten to tell you in all honesty that the Gospel is not old-fashioned either. It isn't old-fashioned in the sense that anything temporal is fashionable. The Gospel has

never been fashionable because it was not fashioned by man! I fear we are too caught up in "fashion," old or new.

I certainly don't object to "old-fashioned" as long as we define it! "Old-fashioned" should mean more than polyester, permanent press, and a '76 Ford. Let us not allow "old-fashioned" to become a fad. The Gospel isn't old. It's not even ancient! It is God's timeless New Testament.

I recently read a sermon by an evangelist named Sam Jones. God used him greatly in large revival meetings well over one hundred years ago. Jones declared, "I am going to preach an old-fashioned righteousness...." You mean to tell me that his message was "old-fashioned" in the 19th century? Apparently, it was. But if it worked then and works now, perhaps we should emphasize that it still works!

How many solid Bible-preaching churches do you know of that were started in Jones's day and are still going strong? How many churches over one hundred years old can you count? Now stop and think about that.... We cannot afford to merely "hold the fort." If that is as ambitious as our hopes dare to be, there will be no fort to hold within one generation!

Remember when you heard the Gospel and believed? I recall when I did. The place was Pennsylvania. It was 1975, and I attended a revival service and trusted Christ. The Gospel saved William Rice in 1887; it saved Wil Rice, IV in 1975; and it will work just fine today. It is God's Good News for now. Don't relegate it to museum status, and don't be ashamed of it for today's need. "It is the power of God unto salvation."



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The Joy of Giving

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

If you are fourteen or older, you can probably still remember gifts you received for Christmas as a youngster. I remember a bicycle, a BB gun and an electric train, but I can not remember the Christmas day I got them. I remember the gifts, but not the special day itself.

Is that true with you as well? Can you remember individually any Christmas day? As a young boy, my Christmas was filled with tradition. Our family got up fairly early and met in the living room. There we read the Christmas story from Luke chapter two and then opened presents around the Christmas tree. Dad would pass the presents to Mother or Betty or Kaye or Pete or me to be opened.

Afterwards, we would eat a late breakfast and then have a Christmas dinner in the evening. Since we did the same thing every Christmas day, it is difficult for me to distinguish one from the other.

But one Christmas day does stand out in my childhood. It actually began in November. Mother gathered we four children together and said, "Your dad has been so good to you – to all of us. Think of the gifts he has given to each of us."

What she said was true, and we all knew it.

"I want us to make this a special Christmas for

your dad," she continued.

Listening to Mother's enthusiasm was contagious. By the time she finished her brief speech, all four of us were sold on the idea of making Christmas a special day for Dad.

It is funny, but I can remember only one gift we got Dad that Christmas – a bathrobe. And I cannot remember one gift I received that year. When we met around the tree and Dad began passing out the gifts, you could see a growing surprise in his countenance.

"Here you are, Bill," he would say passing a present, "and here is one for me." Then he would pick up a couple more gifts. "Here you go Kaye; let's see, this one is for me!"

There would be a present for Mother and then one for Dad, a present for Pete and another for Dad, a present for Betty and Kaye and still another for Dad. Each one of us – Betty, Kaye, Pete and I – had saved our money and bought something for Dad for this special day.

All of us were anxious for Dad to begin opening his presents. As I said, I do not remember what all of the presents were, but I will never forget the bewilderment on his face as he opened gift after gift.

"What in the world," Dad would say. He opened present after present. Finally, in the last



present there was a note from all of us that had been composed by Mother. It said simply that we wanted to make this Christmas a special one for Dad.

It was an outstanding Christmas for me. And you might be tempted to think, "Well, of course it was." But think with me for a moment. This Christmas does not stand out in my memory because of a gift I received. It is memorable because I had the joy of giving! Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And that is true.

The Ranch is a testimony of the giving of God's people. What is done through this missionary work is made possible through your giving. At the close of the year, those of us in the ministries of the Ranch want to thank those who by your giving make this work possible. And we humbly ask that you continue to stand with us in supporting a ministry that gives, because others have given.



In This Season Of Giving, Prayerfully Consider Giving To The Bill Rice Ranch

Can you believe we are on the verge of another new year? Here at the Ranch, we are poised for new opportunities!

We are planning our annual New York City outreach for January, various revival meetings coast to coast for the following months, and Deaf camps in the Philippines for spring.

Of course, we will be conducting Ranch and **West Branch on the Move** events throughout the first months of 2008, as well!

Now is our time to pray and prepare. And now is a good time to consider year-end giving. Would you pray about partnering with the Ranch in the next month? The **Campership Fund** provides a free week of camp to deaf

young people, the **Building Fund** helps us complete projects before summer, and the **Mission Fund** helps support Ranch Staff.

We know that God will provide in '08 as He always has. And if each of us will make this a matter of prayer, whatever we do or give will be both sufficient and honoring to the Lord.

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

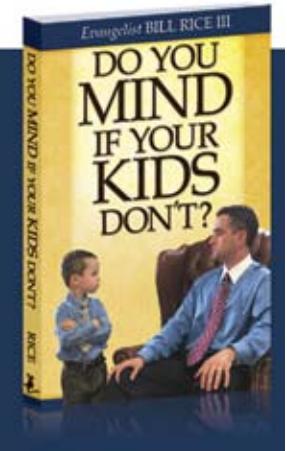
In Do You Mind if Your Kids Don't?, Evangelist Bill Rice III encourages every parent to believe God's promises and to live by them. Parents can still rear godly, obedient children when they decide to follow God's way.

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

Retail Price – \$14.00

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Read 1st Chapter online!

West Branch

by Evangelist Troy Carlson

FAQ's

One of the greatest blessings of 2007 has been rubbing shoulders with pastors and church members from the Southwest during conferences and church services. This has allowed us to answer many questions about the direction of West Branch, several of which have stood out. Perhaps they have crossed your mind as well.

What is the status of the West Branch building project?

After the purchase of the Williams property, many churches volunteered manpower and/or finances to put up camp buildings. The Lord has blessed us with fourteen buildings including the youth camp cabins, a first-aid building, a maintenance shop building, lumber storage, and a home. Some infrastructure has been completed including most of a heavy duty camp road and the relocation of electrical lines.

2007 has been a year of "behind the scenes" work on the building project. Engineers spent most of this year looking for solid cost estimates on water treatment and sanitation. Their report gave us a potential answer on the sanitation but not the water treatment. The recommendation of the engineers has been to pursue some type of a relationship with an

incoming development in our area and/or the city of Williams to answer these questions. We have begun that process.

Will you have camp in Williams next summer?

No. We have not set a date for the opening of the facility. It is not reasonable to do so until the remaining infrastructure questions are answered. We have known for some time that these are complicated matters. However, we are committed to building West Branch to serve the churches of the West. As to when that will be completed, we just don't know. We are daily seeking the Lord's guidance and help in this task.

We are encouraging churches of the West to go to Murfreesboro, TN for camp next summer. The Ranch has offered a \$90 discount on camp fees for western churches. Each church that took us up on the offer last summer is planning to return in 2008.

Are there projects that volunteers could do at the Williams site?

We anticipate making a call for volunteers once we are into active construction again. For now, there are a few projects that could be done such as exterior painting and installation of some items to finish out the cabins.

What are the financial needs at West Branch?

Questions really need to be answered about water and sanitation before we can provide solid money raising goals. In the mean time, like anyone else with 150 acres, we have monthly needs to maintain the existing facilities.

The ministry costs comprise the most pressing need. It is expensive to hold conferences and events across the Southwest. While we are extremely grateful that the Lord has expanded our schedule for 2008, we realize the expenses will expand as well.

How do you feel about these developments at West Branch?

Of course, we would like to see the camp facility completed as soon as possible. However, **West Branch on the Move** has been a blessing in more ways than I anticipated. First, it has clearly been God's idea. We sought His wisdom, and He gave it! Second, ministry opportunities have abounded. We have seen a number of people saved, families helped, and churches strengthened. That is thrilling! Third, this has allowed us to develop new and stronger contacts that might not otherwise have been made. I believe the Lord is strengthening our base for the opening of West Branch in Williams, Arizona.

Please continue to pray with us for the Lord's direction and provision both for building the camp facility and building lives for His glory.

BACK AT THE RANCH...

Busy Weeks of Ministry

The past several weeks have been very busy for the Ranch staff! **Retreats** were held four weekends out of five for ladies, men, senior adults and couples. A lot of work was done around the campground and in the office to prepare for these retreats as well as next year's summer camps. Several evangelists have been on the road preaching in church **revival meetings** or in Deaf ministries. Other Ranch staff members have been traveling too. Several attended the Bill Rice Ranch **Advisory Board Meeting** in Williams, AZ. Men traveled to **West Branch** in Arizona for three days of **projects** and preparation for a follow-up trip in the spring. Besides these things, there has been a lot of work in recruiting summer staff for 2008. Staff members traveled over 5000 miles to several Christian colleges from North Carolina to California to **interview prospective workers**. We thank God for His protection in travel and help in this busy work for the Lord.

Could the Lord Use You or Someone You Know in the Ministries of the Bill Rice Ranch This Summer?

Summer Staff Counselors Counselors must have spent two semesters in a Ranch-approved Christian college by the start of the summer. Positions are available in each of our three programs: Youth, Junior, and Deaf.

Operational Staff Ladies—Young Ladies who are attending Christian college or have been out of high school at least one year. Assistant cooks, linen room, Etc.

Operational Staff Men—Young men who are attending Christian college or high school age guys 15 and up. Cowboys, grounds, maintenance.

C.O.R.E. Challenging Opportunities Rewarding Experiences A 5-week program for young men ages 15 and up. They help in the dining hall and other camp areas. Builds character and discipline in young men who want to serve the Lord. Provides spiritual sharpening through the services each night and the opportunity to make new friends from across the country.

C.O.R.E. Session 1, June 1-July 5

C.O.R.E. Session 2, July 1-Aug. 2



Spring 2008 Schedule

Families on the Move Conference

Straightforward Bible preaching and practical sessions to strengthen families.

February 22-23 Glendale, AZ

Speakers: Wil Rice IV, Dick Mercado, Sr., Troy Carlson

Regional Youth Conference

Teens will be challenged on vital issues for Christian growth. Youth workers benefit from our ministry's fifty plus years of experience working with young people.

March 8 National City, CA

Speakers: Wil Rice IV, Troy Carlson

Men on the Move Conference

Enjoy fellowship with men around the preaching of the Bible in a revival atmosphere.

March 14-15 Williams, AZ

Speakers: Wil Rice IV, Jim Schettler, Troy Carlson

For more information on these events, please call

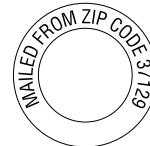
1-800-253-RICE.

For application information contact:

Bill Rice Ranch Recruiting Dept.
627 Bill Rice Ranch Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37128
1-800-253-RICE, ext. 174,
recruitment@billriceranch.org



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627 Bill Rice Ranch Road
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Christmas Gift Ideas!

With Christmas just around the corner, check out these and more great gift ideas at www.billriceranch.org/publications or call us at 1-800-253-RICE, ext.117. All orders must be placed by Friday, December 14.



Homeschool Conference & Competition

April 3-5, 2008

The Homeschool Conference & Competition 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!

SPEAKER



Wil Rice IV
Evangelist and homeschool dad



**Register by Feb. 29
Receive a FREE \$10 voucher
for Cowboy Town or Booktable!**

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

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



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)

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