



Inside this issue

From Sea to Shining Sea

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch

Projects from Pine Lumber to Pool Walls

From West Branch West Branch on the Move:

Ministry Report

“People need to see the *difference* Christ makes!”

From the President

Are Your Looks Deceiving?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV



Last week in Dallas, it was sunny and 70 degrees. Yet as I strode past indoor shops, cafés and bookstores, I saw a number of people in heavy winter coats. Later, as I ate alone at McDonalds, I saw a young man with a shock of red hair and an Irish accent greet a family near my table. He wore a soccer jersey with the word *Ireland* and an Irish flag stitched to the sleeve. Yet we were thousands of miles from the Emerald Isle and nearly as far away from Shamrock, Texas!

My layover at the DFW airport last week reminds me of the nature of sojourners. They are from a faraway place and have a distant destination. Their dress, speech, and their entire culture reflect who they are, not where they are. They point to their destination, not their layover.

I myself enjoy the benefits and obligations of a home far away. As to obligation (a joy, really), I am writing this from California where we have been holding meetings. As to benefits, my kids have been enjoying two “snow days” in sunny San Diego, California! (You see, Bill Rice Christian Academy, their home school on the Ranch, was closed for two days due to Middle Tennessee’s version of “severe winter weather.”) Our life here in California has been shaped by our home in Tennessee.

Why should our lives on earth as citizens of Heaven be any different? Strange how we exalt “cultural diversity” but become defensive should anyone suggest there is a “Kingdom Culture” and that being a citizen of Heaven should in any way involve that which distinguishes us! “Don’t judge by the outward appearance,” some plea. “God looks on the heart,” others intone.

Now, let’s be clear. God indeed does look on the heart, and He is the only One Who can! The heart is of utmost importance to Him. But let us also concede that “man looks on the outward appearance” because he must. It is all he has to go on, since he is not God and cannot see within. We all communicate age, attitude, and gender without a word.

There is no doubt that bad people can appear

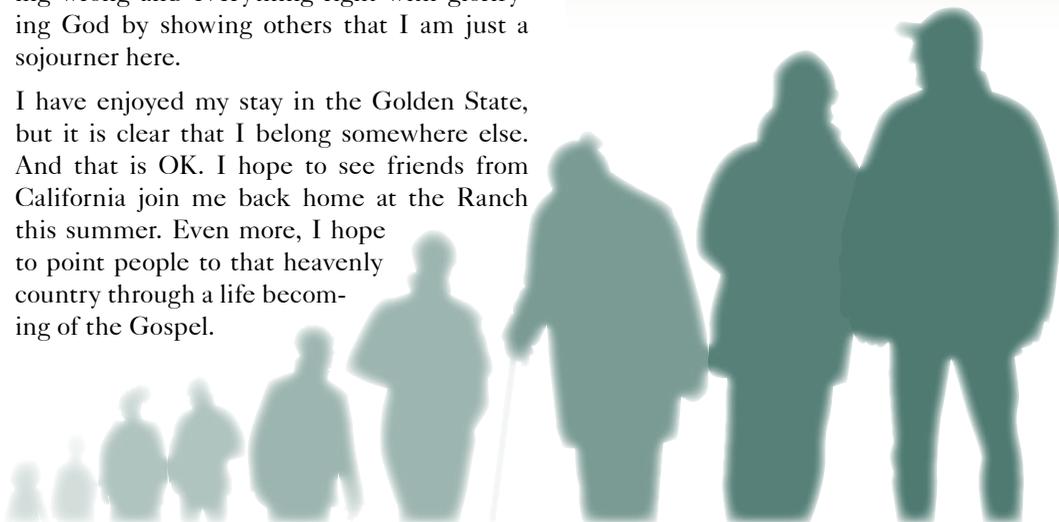
godly, but that is hypocrisy. So is it a virtue for a child of God to appear to be something else? Wouldn’t that be hypocrisy as well? Must people be “heart-readers” to know who we are in Christ? The point is that it is honest and right for one’s “outside” to be consistent with one’s “inside.”

Of course, often it takes time for the inside change to become manifest on the outside. When considering others, therefore, we should be mindful of how gracious and patient God is with us. But we dare not self-righteously claim that God doesn’t care about “the outside” when that is all a dark world can see! We are to let our light shine before men to the extent that they can see our good works and glorify our Great God!

This type of living is in stark contrast to the Pharisees who gave alms conspicuously “before men, to be seen of them.” In their case, God was not glorified; they were! Their deportment didn’t reflect what they were before God; it was merely a show before men. The same person who will make a show for the people who will applaud him will live like a coward before the people who most need to see the difference Christ makes!

Philippians 3:19-20 warns us not to “mind earthly things. For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” This world is not my home, after all. There is nothing wrong and everything right with glorifying God by showing others that I am just a sojourner here.

I have enjoyed my stay in the Golden State, but it is clear that I belong somewhere else. And that is OK. I hope to see friends from California join me back home at the Ranch this summer. Even more, I hope to point people to that heavenly country through a life becoming of the Gospel.





# From Sea to Shining Sea

by *Evangelist Bill Rice III*



Mary and I were traveling from Florida to South Carolina on a Saturday. We were heading for a church in Charleston on the Atlantic Coast. The day was beautiful, and the minutes on my cell phone are free and unlimited on weekends. So life was good. Wil and Sena were en route to California; and so, from I-95, I gave them a call. We talked about “stuff,” nothing that was life changing. Mary wanted to know how Sena and the children were doing. All three kids—Lauren, Wilson and Weston—were fine. The sun was also shining in Arizona on their way to the Coast. I knew they were headed to San Diego. Suddenly a thought crossed my little brain.

“Hey, Wil,” I said, “you’ll be preaching on the Pacific Coast tomorrow, and I’ll be preaching on the Atlantic Coast!”

“Hadn’t thought of it,” he said, “but that’s right.”

As we traveled that afternoon, I began to think about the fact that someone from the Bill Rice Ranch would be on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts that Sunday.

“Neat!” I thought.

Sunday evening, after the service, Mary was talking to a lady whose daughter had worked at West Branch.

“That summer in Arizona at West Branch was a help and blessing to our girl,” the lady said to Mary. We also learned that the girl is married with children, and serves with her husband as a missionary.

In the church where Wil and Sena, along with the team of the Frank Finneys and Susanna Flanders, were having meetings, a couple talked to Wil and Sena. Want to guess what they told them?

Well, you are pretty close. This couple has a daughter who worked a summer at West Branch. The summer was a help and a blessing to her. She is married, and her husband teaches in a Christian school!

To use a worldly phrase and question, “What are the odds?” The answer, ladies and gentlemen, is: better than one might guess. For almost twenty years in Northern Arizona, and for over fifty years in Middle Tennessee, the Lord has graciously worked in lives through the ministries of the Bill Rice Ranch. Knowing that is even better than having a cell phone in your hand on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

## Sign Language School

### & Interpreter’s Seminar July 20-24




**Ages 15 & up**  
**\$190 per person** (includes \$30 registration fee, tuition, workbook, lodging and meals)  
**Classes** for Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced, as well as our Deaf Leader’s Track.  
**Teachers** from the Ranch and deaf ministries around the country.

## Invest in Those Who Will Be Investing this Summer!

Just over **100** summer staff and C.O.R.E. members from around the country and even overseas will come together May 28th to begin investing themselves in the lives of hundreds of campers who will spend a week at the Bill Rice Ranch this summer. Many Christian college students will serve as **counselors**. Other college and high school age young people serve on **operational staff**. Operational staff members help in areas such as the dining hall, grounds and maintenance, horses, and the first aid station. All of these areas and more are vital to our camp atmosphere.

None of these dedicated people will become rich this summer, yet their combined volunteer allowances will be the **most consistent expense** the Ranch undertakes this summer. Your donation given this month will help the Ranch **provide volunteer allowances** for these fine young people as they give of themselves this summer.

Please mark your donation **“Summer staff”** and send all donations to:  
 Bill Rice Ranch, 627 Bill Rice Ranch Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37128







## What week are YOU coming This Summer?

- 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, W. Hardy)  
**Deaf Week III** (R. Rice, Snare)
- June 30-July 4** **Junior IV** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Family Week I** (D. 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)

**1-800-253-RICE**  
 www.billriceranch.org  
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 627 Bill Rice Ranch Road  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37128-4555

## West Branch on the Move Ministry Report

We sure lived up to our name in the past two months! After touring the Phoenix Valley with our ministry team, holding services in nine churches, we then held three **West Branch on the Move** conferences.

Nearly 150 people attended our second annual **Families on the Move** Conference in Glendale, Arizona. Two weeks later, we were in San Diego for the first of three Regional Youth Conferences this year. This one-day event for teens and youth workers was themed “Rising to the Occasion.” Six days later West Branch, the ministry, was “home again” in Northern Arizona. The **Men on the Move** Conference, held in our hometown’s Williams Middle School Auditorium, saw a 40% increase in attendance over last year’s conference.

In reflecting on these events, it occurred to me that there were distinct contrasts to them.

For instance, consider the audiences involved. From teens to men to 3 and 4-year-olds in a family conference class, our team ministered



to a wide gamut of people. Then consider the distances people came. All who attended the Regional Youth Conference were within 30 miles of

home. Contrast that with the conference for men as those attending came from four states with the two most polar locations being nearly 1,000 miles from one another.

But it was not the uniqueness of these events that was most noteworthy; it was their similarity. Whether preaching to youth or mature adults, weary travelers or neighborhood kids, our message was remarkably similar. Perhaps each of these events could have been themed “Rising to the Occasion.” The road to Christian success for teens, children, men or women is paved with the same stuff—obedience. The “occasion” before a dad may differ from the “occasion” staring a teenage girl in the face, but both need the same message: “Obey God. It’s worth it.”

Our ministry is simple, whether we are “on the move” or those attending our events are putting in the long miles. We urge people to “travel” back to Bible truth—to simply obey God, whatever He says. West Branch has pursued this mission for nearly 20 years and, by God’s grace, will continue to do so for decades to come.

## BACK AT THE RANCH...

**Projects from Pine Lumber to Pool Walls** This spring is a very busy one for the maintenance crew at the Ranch. While projects at the Ranch include new office carpet, new entrance construction, and a roof for the outdoor volleyball court, there was still time for a trip to our facility being developed in Williams, Arizona. Projects there included milling lumber for onsite use and improvements to a temporary office. A portable Wood Mizer saw mill was purchased several years ago for West Branch and has saved many dollars as we have been able to mill much of our own lumber.



A rare **February thunderstorm** reminded all of us just how much God has protected the Ranch from violent storms through 50 plus years of ministry.

## Needs at the Ranch

✓ **Special thanks** to a friend who gave a cash donation for the purchase of a much needed compound miter saw!

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

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)

**Recruiting Update** Summer staff recruiting is going well. There are only a few openings remaining in these areas:

**Registered Nurse**

**Ladies**—Kitchen Assistants

**Men**—Counselors

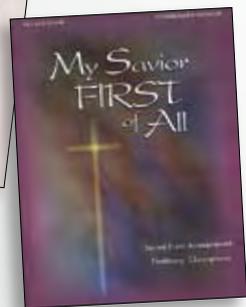
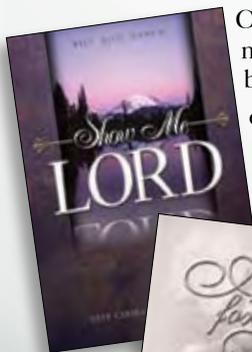


Bill Rice Ranch, Inc.  
627 Bill Rice Ranch Road  
Murfreesboro, TN 37128-4555

## Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS

Does **your church** need fresh, Christ-honoring music for specials, choirs, offertories, or even weddings this summer?

Check out dozens of arrangements on our website: [www.billriceranch.org/publications](http://www.billriceranch.org/publications) or call us at 1-800-253-RICE, ext. 117.



# SPEND QUALITY TIME AT THE RANCH

## FATHER & SON RETREAT: 16th Annual

May 16-17 • Speaker: Wil Rice IV, *Evangelist*

### Activities:

- Horse Rides
- Hikes
- Rodeo
- Ping Pong
- Battle Ball
- Torpedo Ball
- Cowboy Town
- Delicious Meals
- Helpful Preaching *and much more!*
- Putt-Putt Golf

**TIME**—the element that makes this retreat so special!

If you are father, a son, or both, you can benefit from this enjoyable getaway to middle Tennessee. Whether your son is a child or a grown man, take time to invest yourself in him.

*It is a weekend that can make a difference!*



To register or for more information, contact:

1-800-253-RICE • [www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org) • [info@billriceranch.org](mailto:info@billriceranch.org) • 627 Bill Rice Ranch Road, Murfreesboro, TN 37128-4555

## Family Weeks

Now, **Two Weeks to choose from!**



Dave Hardy



Larry Obero



Rick Flanders

**Family Week I**  
June 30-July 4

**Family Week II**  
August 3-7



Wil Rice IV & Bill Rice III  
*will speak both weeks!*

Looking for a **PERFECT Family Vacation?**  
Come to **Family Week** at the Ranch

A time for fun and spiritual growth bringing your family closer to God and to each other. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity.

### Spiritual encouragement:

- ◆ "Family Seminars" addressing specific needs in the home.
- ◆ Excellent Bible preaching each day
- ◆ Beautiful music that will bless and encourage

**Special Activities** include: Trail Rides, Swimming Pool, "Western Day" Rodeo, Family Activities, Hikes, Pony Rides for the little ones, and more!

