



BILL RICE RANCH MURFREESBORO, TN



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## You're Never Alone

*by Evangelist Wil Rice IV*



Mary was frightened and alone. She had been heading south on I-65 for the Bill Rice Ranch when her car just quit. A year before, she wouldn't have been making such a trip by herself. But the love of her life, her husband, had died relatively young, leaving her with responsibilities and worries to compound her grief.

Her husband, Steward Webber, had been a pastor in Indiana. In fact, Mary was returning from visiting friends in that church when her car gave up. Pastor Webber had ministered to his congregation and also to his community with a weekly radio program. Often he and Mary would sing duets to a radio audience they had never seen but who had become their friends nonetheless.

That was another time. Now she had a new ministry and a new family in the Bill Rice Ranch. At the moment, she wondered how she would ever get back to the Ranch! Cell phones had not yet been invented. It was dark. She felt overwhelmed.

"Lord, help me," she whispered. "What should I do?" Her eyes drifted to her car's console where she was chagrined to see the source of her problem. She had run out of gas! Perhaps her husband would not have let that happen, but he wasn't here now. The Lord was the only One there to hear or help her.

She remembered that the universal sign for "car in trouble" was to raise the trunk. Or was it the hood? She quickly decided that the hood was the only option that made any sense, so she got out of her car, raised the hood, then got back into her silent car and waited. She did not know what or who she was even waiting for, but she soon found out.

He parked his pickup truck in front of Mary's car. Mary held her breath as he approached. "I'm embarrassed to tell you I've run out of gas!" she confessed. "I am on my way home from Indiana. I recently moved to Tennessee after my husband died."

Like Mary, the stranger had recently moved from Indiana to Tennessee. As they began talking, Mary told the Good Samaritan of her

pastor-husband, and the man listened intently. Something like recognition seemed to brighten his face. "Was your husband the Pastor Webber who used to have the radio broadcast in Anderson?" he asked. "I used to listen to him on the radio every week! I've heard you sing on the radio!"

Then the man had a little story of his own to tell. "Tonight, through a series of events, I decided to see who I could help on this stretch of road. You would be surprised to see how many cars you can find pulled off to the side of the road! I actually passed many cars before I stopped to help you. Each time, I felt impressed to keep driving, but when I came upon your car, God seemed to say, "Stop here!"

"I've got some gasoline cans in the bed of my truck for this very purpose," he continued. The man put five gallons into Mary's car, and then led Mary to the next exit where he paid for a full tank of fuel. The gas station closed several minutes later, and then her friend was gone.

"And this is about where it happened some thirty-four years ago," "Aunt" Mary told me with tears in her eyes as she traveled with us up I-65 on Christmas Eve. "God has been so good to me through these years," she smiled. And listening to her as my eyes followed the road and my mind followed the story, I had to agree.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me," Hebrews 13:5, 6.



# The Gospel in Three New York Minutes

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

**H**ey, what's this about knowing you can have eternal life?" the young man said. He was 26 or 28 years old with dark hair and a height of a little less than six feet, I would guess.

We were in the area of the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City. We were underground on the mezzanine level. The young man had been given a tract from one of the members of the "team" telling him that he could know that he had eternal life.

"Well, if you have a few minutes, I can take the Bible and show you how you can have eternal life and know it." I waited through a moment of silence and then continued. "Interested?" I asked.

"I am Jewish by birth," he continued, "but I don't really have any religion."

"Well, I can show you from the Bible how you can have eternal life and know it. Do you have a few minutes?"

"I hav-ta catch a bus," he said, "but I have three minutes."

So, for the next three minutes, I explained that

we are all sinners, facing God's judgment and that Christ died for our sins. Three minutes is not a very long time. I tried to be as efficient and clear as possible.

"Make sense?" I asked, as I finished my brief presentation.

"Yes, it does," he said. He turned to catch his bus. "I may pray on the bus," he said simply and he was gone.

Zach was one of seventeen people I gave the Gospel to or prayed with in the 2½ days that the Ranch team passed out tracts and witnessed in Lower Manhattan. In 2001, Mary and I first went to New York City armed with a backpack filled with tracts and the video, *When Silence Speaks*. Every year since, the Ranch has fielded a team to go to New York City to present the Gospel. This year there were 20 of us who went. Eight of us live on the Ranch, and the other 12 came from around the country. While there, we passed out literally thousands of tracts, spoke with hundreds of people, prayed with scores, and saw 41 trust Christ as Savior.

The Ranch provides a list of churches and an opportunity at a correspondence Bible course



to those who trust the Savior. We also send the names of the people who are saved to local churches.

Next year the New York Evangelistic Trip will be January 4-8. We all arrive on Monday, spend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday giving the Gospel in conversation and printed materials, and then leave for home on Friday.

The Ranch has made the "New York Trip" since 2001. Would you be interested in going next year? The dates are January 4-8, 2010. We would love to have you with us. E-mail us or give us a call and we can help with the information you'll need.

The New York Evangelistic Trip provides an excellent opportunity to put your burden to give out the Gospel into practice.

## BACK AT THE RANCH...

### Getting Ready at Home; Serving on the Road

Winter is not really a "down time" for the Ranch. There is a lot going on in ministry away from Middle Tennessee as well as much work being done to prepare for upcoming camps at home.

**Work at Home** The staff is hard at work back in Tennessee preparing for spring retreats and even summer camp. Maintenance, advertising, and food service preparation are just a few of the areas being attended to. Special renovation projects are also being planned.

Recruiting also continues for summer staff. Here is a brief update of summer staff needs:

#### Summer Staff Counselors

**Ladies** – 2 positions remaining in the Youth week program

**Men** – 8 total positions remaining in our three programs: Youth, Junior, and Deaf.

*Counselors must have completed two semesters in a Ranch-approved Christian college by the start of the summer.*

#### Operational Staff

**Ladies** – 4 positions available (cooking, linen room, Cowboy Town).

**Men** – 2 positions available (grounds).

*Young men and ladies who have been out of high school at least one year may qualify for operational staff.*

**Registered Nurse** – serve as camp nurse (May 27-Aug. 1)

**FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bill Rice Ranch Recruiting Dept.  
(615) 893-2767, ext. 135  
recruitment@billriceranch.org



**New York Trip Report** The 8th annual New York City Evangelistic Trip was held January 5-9. Forty-one people trusted Christ as Savior with three receiving assurance of salvation. Want to come next year? Join us January 4-8, 2010.



**Ministry Teams** Two ministry teams are traveling to churches this winter. The Florida team has already begun conducting services. The Arizona team will be in the Phoenix valley throughout February. Check the [www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org) Itineraries page for more info.

# THE RANCH IS PEOPLE



## The Life of a Ranch Cowboy by Susanna Flanders

It's an early winter morning at the Ranch—so early that most of us “normal” staff members are cozy in our warm beds sawing logs. Ah, but the morning is already in full swing down at the stables! Head cowboy Michael Aulgur is busy serving breakfast to sixty hungry customers. Have you ever heard anyone say, “He eats like a horse”? Well, try feeding sixty of them twice a day! Needless to say, even in the “off-season” at the Ranch, the head cowboy's job stays as busy as ever.

Besides doing the daily chores (completely necessary if you want to ride Missionary Boy, Raindrop, or any other horse this summer), Michael Aulgur and fellow cowboy Andrew Palmer have been busy with numerous projects since the summer ended. Shortly after the last week of camp, the fall retreats began. For the cowboys, this meant bringing horses in from pasture, grooming them, and getting them ready for the trail rides. Without a whole crew of cowboys like they have in the summer, getting ready for the trail rides is no small task!

During the down time between the retreats, Michael and Andrew got to work training six new horses, building three new feeders, and seeding

the beautiful new entrance to the Ranch. After a summer's worth of wear and tear, all the saddles and tack needed to be repaired; also, some of the gates and fences needed welding and mending. On top of all that, Michael managed to take a trip out to West Branch to help turn trees into lumber for building. Whew! Yes, caring for the horses may have its moments of glamour, but most of the job is plain hard work—hard work that is completely necessary to keep the Ranch being... well, a ranch!

Though the work is consistent and demanding, Michael loves what he does. Of course, he has always enjoyed working with horses, but what he enjoys most is the opportunity to interact with the many campers through trail rides, cookouts, the rodeo, and the illustrated messages. As was the vision of the



founder so many years ago, the many horses at the Ranch are simply used as tools to bring campers in so that they can hear preaching from God's Word.

Fast-forward to a few months from now. Instead of a cold, wintry morning, it is a beautiful, warm Sunday morning in Smyrna, Tennessee. Into the church parking lot rolls a Sunday school bus full of wide-eyed kids staring and pointing out the windows. It's not every day that you see cowboys on horses greeting you as you come to church! On this Ranch Sunday, the Ranch staff is working together with a local church to bring in the lost so they can hear the Gospel.

Many young people have come for the first time, not because they are familiar with the Ranch or because they necessarily know anyone at this church—they came simply to ride a horse. However, they will receive far more than just a good time on a horse. Many of these kids will hear the Gospel for the first time and be saved.

Yes, feeding those horses does have a direct connection to feeding lost souls. Like most everything in the Christian life, the most precious eternal rewards are obtained by faithfulness to the daily tasks that God sets before us. It's as simple as that. For Michael and Andrew, those tasks may be many and varied; but their purpose remains the same—to bring souls to Christ.

## Summer Training for Service (S.T.S.)

Many teenagers are looking forward to being campers at the Ranch this summer. Other young people a bit older are excited about being counselors. How wonderful it would be to have a taste of both!

S.T.S. is a two-week training course for young men and young ladies. During the first week, those in STS receive special instruction on being a counselor while still being involved in the exciting Youth Week services each night! During the second week, each one in the program assists our Junior Camp counselors.

Evangelist Matt Downs, who first came to the Ranch for S.T.S., now preaches every summer at the Ranch. We asked him what some of the advantages of the program are. He mentioned several:



- Being able to work with counselors when counselors have had such an impact on you
- Giving you a head start to being a full-fledged camp counselor down the road
- Spending two weeks at camp—the “highlight” of the year
- Being able to come with friends and go through the program together

Evangelist Troy Carlson, Director of West Branch, also adds, “I would have loved S.T.S. as a teenager! I went to camp every year and always thought it would be great to be the counselor. One day I did just that, but it would have been great to have a taste of it while I was still in high school.”

**S.T.S. is open to young men and women ages 15-19. Two sessions: June 7-19 and July 5-17.**  
For more information contact the registrar at 1-800-253-RICE.

## Needs at the Ranch

**Mig Welder**  
Thanks to our friend who donated money for the purchase of our new mig welder!

- Metal Chop Saw**
- Jack Hammer** (Electric or Air Compressor)
- Rock Drill**
- 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

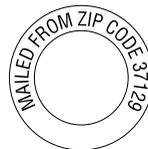
## Can You Help with the Mission Fund?

The work of the ministry is never ending. Because of this, we are grateful for the excellent staff God has provided. Now we must provide for them. Can you help us with that? Your gift today toward the **Mission Fund will help provide the salaries** for the families who *are* the Bill Rice Ranch. Would you pray about it? That's all we ever ask.



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

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## Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS

### Ranch Music Arrangements



The Ranch has music for vocal solos, duets, trios, quartets, and choirs along with piano solos, as well. Included are great selections for church services as well as competition at the Ranch Homeschool Conference and Youth Weeks.

Visit us at [www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org) for a complete list of selections, or to listen to samples of our music.

NOTE: Prices **DO NOT** include shipping & handling.  
For orders, call **1-800-253-RICE, ext.117**  
or visit our website [www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org)

### 13<sup>th</sup> annual **HOMESCHOOL** CONFERENCE & COMPETITION **APRIL 2-4, 2009**

*Wil Rice IV, speaker*

A great time of fun, fellowship, practical encouragement in home schooling, and competition for homeschool kids. Special programs and activities will be available for all ages. Nurseries will be provided for all services and sessions. The entire family is encouraged to attend!

Register by February 28<sup>th</sup> and receive a **FREE \$10 voucher** for Cowboy Town or the Booktable!



## Need a good reason to bring young people to the Ranch this summer?

From a Youth Pastor who brought teenagers to the Ranch last summer—

"1989 was my first year at the Bill Rice Ranch. [The] messages confirmed that this was where I needed to be each summer. As a public school kid I was a mess—saved—but a mess. On the bus ride to camp in 1990, I was involved with awful music, and my heart was smote knowing I was wrong. I made things right and **surrendered my life to Christ**. This began a tremendous journey...in my Christian walk. **Praise the Lord for the Bill Rice Ranch.**"



### **BILL RICE RANCH**

*Still helping young people through*

**C**ontrolled  
**A**tmosphere for the  
**M**inistry of  
**P**reaching

Contact us or check the web site for Junior Week, Deaf Week and Family Week schedules.

**June 7-12 Youth I** (Carlson, Cook)  
**June 14-19 Youth II** (Miller, Stone)  
**June 21-27 Youth III** (Thompson, Reilly)  
**July 5-10 Youth IV** (Carlson, Redlin)  
**July 12-17 Youth V** (Downs, Goetsch, Jr.)  
**July 26-31 Youth VI** (Coyle, Goetsch)

**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**