

*From the President*

## Why My Kids Drive a Ford

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

Henry Ford did not invent the automobile. But he may as well have. The man who mass produced reliable transportation built something more than a car. Henry Ford built loyalty. He built a loyalty, I might add, that was deeper than reason and thicker than water.

If you drive a Chevy, especially if you drive a Chevy truck, I know that I've got your attention. I understand your sense of loyalty. My three children are that way about Fords. I honestly don't know how they came to be such Ford loyalists, but maybe you do. And I suppose I could guess!

Often, as we cruise down the interstate in our big, beautiful, red Ford F-350 dual wheel Power Stroke, I can hear my three kids in the back seat "shooting" the tires off of the poor Chevys we pass. I can't condone what they're doing. But I just can't bring myself to condemn it either!

And when the boys get a Matchbox® car for Christmas, the first question they ask their dear old dad is, "Is it a Ford?" If the answer is not to their liking, their disappointment isn't anything that a magic marker or an imagination can't fix. All the little cars in their world are Fords!

I once offended my kids by complimenting the looks of a Chevy truck at a Wal-Mart parking lot in a moment of objective weakness. "But Daddy, it's a Chevy!" they exclaimed, trying to understand an "objective" compliment with their Ford minds. I am raising three little loyalists. Your dad did too!

"Oh, please!" I can hear you reply. "I couldn't care less about such things. I drive an Isuzu, but I'm not a fanatic about it! My kids can drive whatever they choose." To which I reply, "O.K., then. Let's talk about the speed of Apple computers, or the taste of McDonald's hamburgers, or the legacy of the Dallas Cowboys, or the merits of the Democrat Party, or the health benefits of organic food."

So, what am I getting at? I'm getting at loyalty! We all have it for something or someone. And loyalty is not necessarily wrong. In fact, there is something very wrong with someone

who possesses no loyalty at all. But loyalty is far too powerful to base solely on whom we like or how we feel.

Isn't it obvious that we pass on both beliefs and biases to our kids? That makes what we believe mighty important! If I believe nothing, my children will believe anything. And if I do not test my loyalties by the truth, then my kids will saddle my "hobby horse" and ride! Isn't it amazing how difficult it is to choose our loyalty based on the truth? We often determine our loyalties based on our emotions rather than our convictions.

That is why it is important to me to teach my kids the truth, help them identify error, and give them something firm to stand on. While some criteria by which I judge Apple computers or the Dallas Cowboys may be "in the eye of the beholder," God's truth is absolute! I want my kids to both believe in and feel a loyalty to Bible truth!

In contrast, I wouldn't be completely heartbroken if the facts led my kids to drive something else in the coming years, even if it was a Chevy. After all, neither Ford nor Chevy is immutable. But for now, if a big, beautiful Ford passes you on the interstate and you see three kids in the back seat pointing their fingers at your tires and "shooting," you'll know that we are passing you! And I will know that you are driving a Chevy.

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## Dr. Mother

*by Evangelist Bill Rice III*

I was not quite five years old. My father was an evangelist, and I often heard him preach. I also heard the Gospel and Bible truths in our home during devotions or just in casual conversation.

Though I had not trusted the Lord Jesus myself, I often thought other people should. I can remember going to services where my father was preaching and praying that God would save the lost people to whom Dad was preaching. When someone responded in an invitation by raising a hand to ask for prayer about their own lost condition, I always wanted them to go forward during an invitation hymn and meet with a dedicated counselor who would show them how they could know they were on their way to Heaven.

One day in our home in Wheaton, Illinois, it occurred to me that if other people needed to have their sins forgiven and be saved, I did too! I was a sinner, I thought. I could not save myself. But I had heard my parents say that the Lord Jesus had died to pay the penalty for our sins and that anyone who trusted in Christ could be saved. It was kind of shocking to me as I thought about it.

"People need to be saved," I thought. "And I am a person!"

I walked into the kitchen where Mother was working and told her I needed to be saved. I do

not remember what she replied, but my guess is that she said something like, "Do you ever!"

At any rate, she sat down with me and explained once again the Gospel. I was a sinner. I had earned punishment. Christ had paid my debt; and if I would trust Him to save me, He could and would.

So that fall morning in the kitchen of my own house, I sat with my mother and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ to save me.

My mother had already led Betty, the oldest of us four Rice kids, to Christ. Betty, of course, was deaf. Mother had led Kaye, Rice youngster number two, to the Lord Jesus. Now, she had led me to Christ; and about a year and a half later she would lead Pete, my brother, to Christ. My father was an evangelist, wonderfully used of the Lord. But it was Mother who led each one of the children to the Lord Jesus.

Betty lives in El Paso, Texas, with her husband where they work with people who are deaf. Kaye lives in Heaven. Pete lives in eastern Arizona where he heads up a revival ministry, seeing hundreds of people saved every year.

Not only was Mother a soul winner when I was a kid, but she was also quite an innovator. She "homeschooled" us in the fifties before homeschooling was in vogue. She made an enormous impact in Bible-believing circles by encouraging God's people to include those who are deaf



*Cofounder of the Ranch  
Cathy Rice, c. 1950*

in their ministries. She is one of the first, in our circles, that saw the need of providing help to women through ladies' retreats, articles and books. She was the first cook at the Bill Rice Ranch. She was the first nurse at the Bill Rice Ranch. She was the first bookkeeper at the Bill Rice Ranch. In fact, a friend of my father's use to say that this place should have been named Cathy Rice Ranch!

When she was given an honorary doctor's degree, I began calling her "Dr. Mother." Well, Dr. Mother turned 94 February 15th.

For those of you who would like to know, she is doing well. It is harder for her to see, to hear, and to remember than it was a few years ago; but she is still fairly active and very interested in the ministries here.

This summer she will probably come up to a couple services each week in the auditorium at camp. She is very seldom impressed with the great array of guest speakers that the Ranch has. But when her son or grandson preaches, she thinks it is absolutely outstanding.

Even though she hears only part of what either Wil or I would say, she always proclaims it as good.

Okay, so she doesn't see or hear as well as she once did. I still say, who can argue with Dr. Mother!

## BACK AT THE RANCH...

### Paving the Way for Summer

**Entrance road paved** Phase 2 of the new entrance is well underway with the completion of the paving of the road. Fence staining will also be completed this spring.



**New things for you** We are selecting new Cowboy Town items including new Bill Rice Ranch T-shirts and specialty food items. We are also choosing new dining hall menu items. In fact, everyone on the Ranch helps with that job by attending a set of two-hour food tasting shows involving exhibitors from our food providers. It's a tough job to eat all morning and then wash it down with iced coffee, but somebody has to do it!

**Summer staff needs** We are making final preparations for our summer staff team. Only these positions remain:

#### ► Registered Nurse

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

#### ► Counselor Guys

#### ► Operational Staff: grounds



For application information, contact:  
Bill Rice Ranch Recruiting Dept.  
(615) 893-2767, ext. 135  
[recruitment@billriceranch.org](mailto:recruitment@billriceranch.org)



Although many things have changed in my grandmother's life over the last few years, her character has not changed. I recall a conversation we shared not too long ago when she told me she had just been thinking about Caleb. The Book of Joshua tells us that Caleb wholly followed the Lord in his old age just as he had in the prime of his youth.

My grandmother smiled and said, "I may be getting older, but I can still serve the Lord." And it's wonderful to see her do just that!

# West Branch *by Evangelist Troy Carlson*

## Busyness vs. Effectiveness

Have you been busy lately? Who hasn't! Right? It's a pretty standard introductory question between newly-reconnected acquaintances. It serves a purpose—it steers the conversation toward news and events in our lives. However, if we are not careful, we can tend to think that the barometer of our lives is measured by "busyness."

"Wow! I am swamped, so I must really be serving the Lord."

Certainly, God expects us to be "busy" serving Him: "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11). But isn't there a danger that we could just be busy and not really serving the Lord? I know it is a temptation for me to focus on just doing instead of focusing on the Lord and His will. Having a schedule full of busyness is not the same as Christian service. Just because our activity is religious or wholesome does not mean it is precisely what God wants us to be doing right now. We need to daily submit to the One Who has the authority to orchestrate our time.

While it is true that busyness and true productivity are not the same, it does not mean that

they are mutually exclusive. Yes, God does the work, but He does use our efforts—the ones He directs us to do. Those efforts may be grand or nondescript. It doesn't matter as long as we are doing them because He has directed us to do so.

Think about the apostles. How did they spend their time? What did they do every day? We know part of the answer—they preached, they studied, and they prayed.

But that is not all they did. Preaching in different locations certainly required travel time. They also fellowshiped with other believers and personally trained new Christians. While they were careful not to be sidetracked (such as in Acts 6), sometimes they did such menial things as

tent making so that they would not "hinder the gospel of Christ" or abuse their "power in the gospel" (I Corinthians 9:12, 18).

How would you have felt after you had worked all day making a tent, then written a quick letter to the believers you left in the last town before

heading to the public gathering place to convince people of their need of Christ? Among other things, you would have felt busy. But if you read the New Testament carefully, you will see that their activity is not what God emphasized; it is what God did with their activity.

The apostles gave themselves to serving the Lord Jesus Christ. They knew what that meant—get people saved and help them grow. But could the apostles accomplish that on their own? No, of course not. God had to do that. And for God to do that, the apostles had to be busy. Busy doing what? Some things we know; some things we don't. It doesn't matter. What matters is that they knew what their purpose was, and they did whatever they needed to do, in the Lord's strength. They never disconnected their "to do" list from God's will.

There is nothing like watching God do what only He can do while you are working, doing whatever He leads you to do. If you know you have been obedient, you can rest satisfied that your busyness went beyond busyness to effectiveness. That is true in ministry, our families, or any other way we serve the Lord.

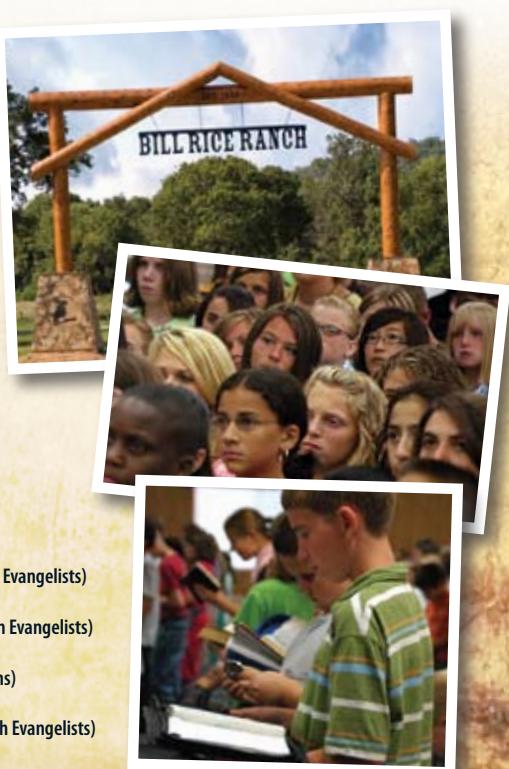
All that having been said, we have been busy lately—very busy. The details of that busyness were both necessary and irrelevant. We have asked the Lord to direct our schedule and then to direct our steps to fulfill our schedule. It has been our goal to be effective. In the midst of it all, it is very satisfying to see God busy using our weak efforts and doing a work in the lives of people.

## Are you working with teens or juniors

in your church or Christian school?

Take advantage of one of the many opportunities for them this summer!

- June 7-12** **Junior I** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth I** (Carlson, Cook)
- June 14-19** **Junior II** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth II** (Miller, Stone)
- June 21-26** **Junior FULL** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth FULL** (Thompson, Reilly)
- June 29-July 3** **Junior IV** (Ranch Evangelists)
- July 5-10** **Junior V** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth IV** (Carlson, Redlin)
- July 12-17** **Junior VI** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth V** (Downs, Goetsch, Jr.)
- July 26-31** **Junior VII** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth VI** (Coyle, Goetsch)
- August 21-22** **Elementary Retreat I** (Ranch Evangelists)
- September 11-12** **Elementary Retreat II** (Ranch Evangelists)
- September 11-12** **Youth Conference (AZ)** (Downs)
- September 18-19** **Youth Conference (TN)** (Ranch Evangelists)



## Philippines Deaf Camps

Missionary **Bob Himes** is making preparations for our **29th Annual Deaf Camps** in the Philippines this spring. Camps are already scheduled in Davao City (May 4-8) and Manila (May 11-15). Forty-five campers were saved last year. As is true in our Deaf camps in the States, Filipino deaf young people come free of charge. This is made possible by gifts to the Camper-ship Fund. To contribute to this important evangelistic outreach, please **mark your donation as "Deaf Camps: Philippines."** Your donation this month will help Brother Himes in his preparation for this important effort.

Please send all donations to: Bill Rice Ranch, 627 Bill Rice Ranch Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37128

## Needs at the Ranch

- Metal Chop Saw**
- Jack Hammer** (Electric or Air Compressor)
- Rock Drill**
- Leather Sewing Machine**
- Concrete Mixer**
- Sheet Metal Brake**
- Small Sized Self-propelled Road Grader** (needed for upkeep of cinder road at West Branch)

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)

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



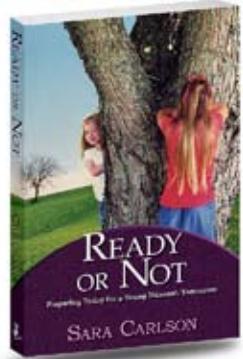
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or visit our website [www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org)

## Invest Time Now in Something Rewarding

### FATHER & SON RETREAT: 17th Annual

May 15-16 • Helpful preaching from Evangelist Wil Rice IV

#### Activities:

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- Putt-Putt Golf
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- Cowboy Town
- Rodeo
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- and much more!*

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

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### SIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOL & Interpreter's Seminar July 19-23

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**\$205 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:

**Steve Houghton** (Assistant Pastor/Deaf Leader, FL, Professional Interpreter)

**Cathy Metcalf** (Interpreter/ Deaf Ministry Leader, VA)

**Mary Rice** (Interpreter/Deaf Worker, TN)

**Nathan McConnell** (BRR Deaf Ministries Coordinator, TN)

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