



From the President

Who Was Ronnie Binkley?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV



It emerged from the earth like buried treasure. As workmen were tearing out an old sidewalk on the Ranch, they found the tarnished I.D. bracelet with a forgotten name etched onto the name plate. The name was “Ronnie Binkley.” I’d heard of Ronnie Binkley; he was a boy from long ago.

Ronnie Binkley seemed to have a life where nothing went right. He lost both parents before he could remember, and he was born with multiple handicaps. Apart from a few bright spots, like the care of a kind foster mom, Ronnie grew up lonely and frustrated. Ronnie Binkley was born deaf.

When Ronnie first came to the Ranch as a fourteen-year-old boy, he discovered a place that understood him. The tall “Boss Man,” Evangelist Bill Rice, knew what it was to lose parents. As a teen, he had lived first with his sister, Ruth, on the Graham Ranch, and then with his brother, John, in Dallas.

Dr. Bill’s wife, Cathy, also understood. She had the instincts of a mother and the compassion that came from raising a deaf daughter in a world that gave little support for such children. She was the mother Ronnie would have had if anything had gone right for him at all.

But two remarkable things happened to Ronnie Binkley on the Ranch that changed everything. The first event would change his life, for he learned that we are all born wrong regardless of our heritage, social status, health or religion. He learned that Christ came to give life from above to those who will trust Him, and Ronnie Binkley was born again into the family of God! But that wasn’t all.

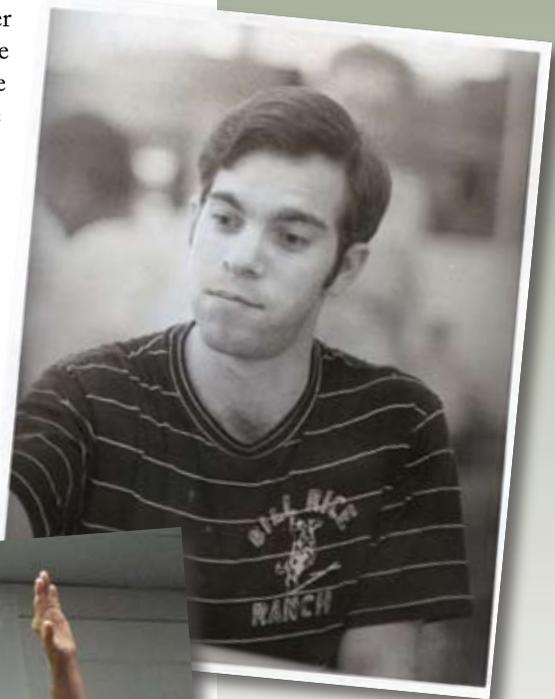
Something else happened. Something happened that would change his name. Bill and Cathy Rice adopted Ronnie, and he soon became a man. In the forty-plus years that have followed, Evangelist Ronnie Rice has multiplied God’s grace to him by sharing the Good News with many thousands of others!

Ronnie Rice has literally traveled the world preaching the Gospel. He has preached to deaf people from Asia to New Zealand, Central

America to the countries of the former Soviet Union. He has been a great blessing to hearing people across this country, and each week every summer he preaches right here on the Bill Rice Ranch!

He is doing the very same thing in the very same place that God used to reach him when he was a kid! He understands the young people that will come to the Ranch this summer: their world, their struggles, and their need for the Gospel! Along with Evangelist Allen Snare, who is also deaf, and Evangelist Nathan McConnell, the Director of our Deaf Weeks, he will be preaching to deaf campers from across the country.

While Uncle Ronnie’s story is wonderful, it is in many respects only one of thousands of stories that have been written summer by summer since 1953. Better yet, his story is representative of many other stories that are yet to be written, but will be written somewhere on the Bill Rice Ranch in the next several weeks! Only God knows what “buried treasures” will emerge from the Ranch this summer or how many other deaf young people will be born into God’s family and given a new identity. This is just one reason why I can’t wait to be a part of it all in the summer of 2009!



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Weather or Not

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

The little musical ditty is etched on the back of my brain. When I was a kid, Channel 4 used it every evening in the opening of their weather segment of the evening news.

*Everybody talks about it;
No one does a thing about it;
About what? The weather.*

*Is it hot? Is it cold? Is it cloudy, rain or snow?
Here's the weatherman, the guy who'll know!*

On the 9th of April, the guy who should know, did. And the weatherman told all of us in Tennessee that the following day would bring rain – a lot of it! The system moving through our state could spawn tornadoes, we were told.

Mary and I had planned to leave early Friday morning for Oklahoma City. At 4:00 in the morning – 30 minutes before I had planned to leave – the weather was stormy, and there was a lot of thunder and lightning. Because we lost power shortly thereafter, I decided to delay our trip until the power came back on.

We left a little after 9:00 in light rain. Two hours later on Interstate 40 we ran into very heavy rain that slowed traffic to about 40 mph. The rain was so intense that it was difficult to see. We were only in that system about fifteen minutes. After all, it was traveling east at a rate of speed probably higher than the speed we were going in the opposite direction.

An hour later, Mary and I were listening to the national news on the radio coming out of New York. The lady reporting said that a tornado had struck Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a town just southeast of Nashville, causing great damage.

“Call Wren,” I said to Mary, and she dialed the home of Nathan and Wren Watson, our son-in-law and daughter.

Mary began talking to Wren. “What is the weather like there?” she asked.

Naturally, I couldn't hear the answer; but Mary paused long enough to tell me that it was rainy and windy. “Is everything at the Ranch all right?” Mary wanted to know.

Actually, Nathan and Wren had no idea that severe weather had struck just a little more than one mile from their house. We asked Wren to call other folks on the Ranch to make sure they knew about the weather situation.

We then called our niece who lives a little west of Murfreesboro and our nephew who lives in the city. After that we called the Sword of the Lord and found that the employees were all in the basement of the building listening to news reports.

Everyone was safe.

Later that day, we learned that severe weather had struck less than a mile from the Ranch and

that a tornado, or perhaps several, began a path about 4 ½ miles from the Ranch and continued 10 miles across the city.

They actually saw the tornado from Advantage Automotive, less than a mile away from the Ranch. By the time we got to Oklahoma, Mary and I saw pictures and videos of the storm and the tornado, taken by numbers of people in the city.

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, is a wonderful and resilient city. Before the rain stopped, efforts at rescue and restoration began. The city has mourned the loss of two lives, but there has also been a sense of thanksgiving. Since hundreds of homes were destroyed or damaged, we all know the loss of life could have been much greater.

For four days, we received calls from you wanting to know if we were safe and if the Ranch was unharmed. The Ranch is just great and we are all fine.

You cannot possibly know what it means to us to have your friendship, along with the prayerful concern and partnership of people all over this country.

The song may say, “...no one does a thing about it,” but you and others like you certainly did. It is wonderful to have good friends. That is what you are. Thanks!

BACK AT THE RANCH...

Preparing for Summer: Faithful Staff and Gracious Friends

Summer “officially” starts toward the end of June, but “summer” arrives earlier for us! In a few days, hundreds of campers will arrive to join the scores of summer staff who are already here. To be prepared, our staff has been busy in all areas of camp: from printing to maintenance, program preparation to training horses, and everything in between. Many volunteers have also come to help with specific projects:

Major Project Begun

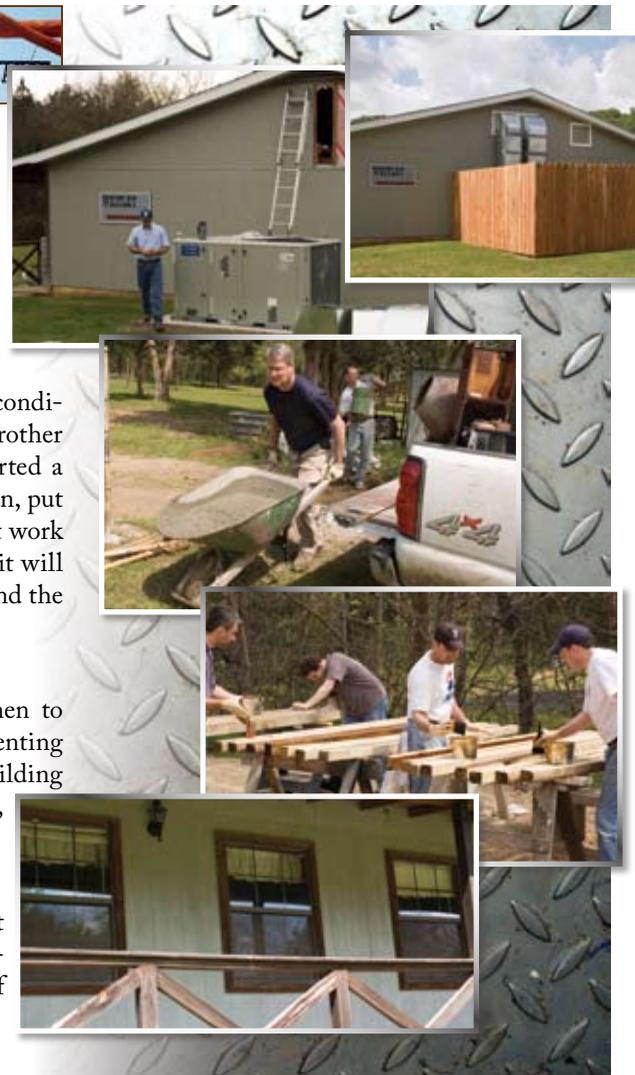
We have a goal, with the Lord's help and provision, to have the boys' and girls' cabins air-conditioned by the summer of 2010. We took the first big step toward this goal March 25-28. Brother Craig Faulstreaux and several men from his air-conditioning company in Florida transported a large amount of the needed equipment to the Ranch. They, along with twelve Ranch staff men, put in three long days of very productive labor. Units were set in place, holes were cut, and duct work was assembled and installed. While none of the equipment will be operating this summer, it will be a very visible reminder that the project is well underway. Please pray for God's provision and the work that still remains for this fall and next spring.

Second Annual Spring Work Day

On Saturday, April 18, twenty-three friends from the area joined eleven Ranch staff men to accomplish several needed maintenance projects. These included painting, staining, cementing fence posts, installing new song book racks, replacing wood trim, laying vinyl floor tile, building wooden fences, and dismantling and removing an old goat shed. It was a great day of work, food, and fellowship.

New Windows for Whitley Building

April 20-22, Brother Henry Hodges and his son and daughter-in-law from Florida, brought new window units for the Whitley Building. These were needed as part of the future air-conditioning project. Brother Henry's group and three Ranch staff men made quick work of the installation.



THE RANCH IS PEOPLE



Working with the Deaf: A Wife's Perspective by Rebekah McConnell

"How did we get here anyway?" Well, I married in (into the Deaf Ministry of the Ranch, that is). Nathan, my husband, was led step by step into Deaf work at the Ranch when he was a summer staff counselor. While I, with the words "I do," dived head-long into ministry with the Deaf—and I didn't even know any Sign Language! Of course, not knowing Sign Language made working with the Deaf quite an adventure. Happily, the last four years of Deaf Camp and meeting deaf people from California to Florida to New England has improved my skills; but I still have a lot to learn.

So what do we actually do? Glad you asked. Our summers, of course, are spent here at the Ranch where Nathan oversees the Deaf Week program each week. His responsibilities include preaching, teaching, giving assignments, running activities, emceeding the services, and too many other things to list. My summer jobs vary

from year to year but typically involve the deaf camps and some sort of office work. Summer is also the time when we get to see much of the fruit of our work from the rest of the year. The best fruit is seeing an unsaved deaf teen, whom we invited to camp, come and be saved.



Which leads me to what else we do the rest of the year.... A large part of our fall and spring is spent on the road. It's an exciting life of packing, unpacking, and repacking as we travel holding Deaf Rallies, teaching Sign Language Schools, preaching in church services, doing presentations for camp at schools with deaf children, and making many visits in between.



Deaf Rally, West Bend, WI

and moving from place to place (during our last trip we moved 10 times in 33 days) makes meal planning, cooking, childcare, laundry, and many other day-to-day activities quite challenging.

Along with the challenges come many joys like being together as a family, seeing God provide for our needs, and—my favorite part—getting to know new people, both Hearing and Deaf, in all the different places. Our one-year-old son, Warren, adds to both the challenges and the joys of travel life. Although he does not like long car rides, he adapts very well to each new place and loves to explore.

With each return home there are stories to tell and plenty of things to do when we arrive. The first day home is always a flutter of unpacking, doing laundry, catching up on bills, restocking the fridge, and everything in between while Nathan is catching up on correspondence and other things in the office. By the end of that first day back we're usually pretty tired and ready for a good night's sleep. So, as bedtime comes, and we can finally lay our heads on our very own pillows, we smile. "Boy, it's good to be home!"

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

Would You Pray about This Need?

Dozens of summer staff are currently being trained for the work that lies ahead. Young people come representing good families and several Christian colleges around the country.

Though, certainly, each one will earn eternal rewards this summer, each of them comes trusting the Lord to provide for physical needs as well. We, in turn, trust the Lord to provide the modest weekly allowance which we will give each one of them. While none of these allowances is large, the sum total of these allowances is a staggering amount.

The total responsibility the Ranch has for summer allowances on top of regular permanent staff salaries is **\$47,600**. Will you pray with us that God will provide this amount? Would you also be willing to ask the Lord if he would have you contribute to meet this need? You might consider making a gift of \$25 or more (marked "summer staff") this month. We are confident that, if given in obedience to the Lord, your gift, whether large or small, will help meet the need. **Thank you for praying about this with us.**



Philippines Deaf Camps

REPORT

By Missionary Bob Himes

This year we have had two full weeks of camps for the Deaf in the Philippines—in Davao and Manila. In all, 324 Deaf came to camp with 65 accepting Christ as Savior. One deaf woman, Hazel, reminded me of the woman at the well: Hazel also had had many "husbands." During camp, she was convicted of her sins and was wonderfully saved. Hazel told us that she was a wicked woman before, but now Christ had forgiven her of all her sins. Praise God for His working among the Deaf in the Philippines!

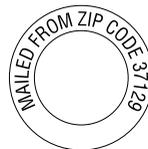
Bob Himes
Bob Himes



Thank you for being part of this great report by your prayers and gifts!



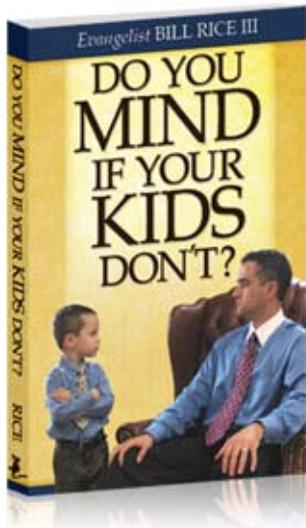
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Do You Mind If Your Kids Don't?

Are God's promises still valid today? Does the Bible give answers to today's parenting issues? Yes and yes! Evangelist Bill Rice III encourages every parent to believe God's promises and to live by them. It will challenge your thinking and give you the tools you need to train your children. 205 pages. ~~\$14.00~~ **\$11.99**

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COME SEE US THIS SUMMER!

SCHEDULE

- June 7-12** **Junior I** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth I (Carlson, Cook)
Deaf Week I (R. Rice, Snare)
- June 14-19** **Junior II** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth II (Miller, Stone)
Deaf Week II (R. Rice, Snare)
- June 21-26** **Junior III** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth III (Thompson, Reilly)
Deaf Week III (R. Rice, Snare)
- June 29-July 3** **Junior IV** (Ranch Evangelists)
Deaf Week I (Flanders, Smith)
- July 5-10** **Junior V** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth IV (Carlson, Redlin)
Deaf Week IV (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 12-17** **Junior VI** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth V (Downs, Goetsch, Jr.)
Deaf Week V (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 19-23** **Deaf Adult Conference**
Sign Language School
Family Week II (Hardy, Miller)
- July 26-31** **Junior VII** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth VI (Coyle, Goetsch)
Deaf Week VI (R. Rice, Snare)



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