



Inside this issue

Learning

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch

Camp Continues into the Fall

The Ranch Is People

Camp's Out, But School's In

by Nathan Reeves



From the President

Are You Telling the Truth?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

From the kitchen table, my dad and I sat in rapt silence and listened to Ronald Reagan. “If nothing in life is worth dying for, when did this begin?... Should the patriots at Concord Bridge have thrown down their guns and refused to fire the ‘shot heard ‘round the world’?...The martyrs of history were not fools....You and I have a rendezvous with destiny....”

His voice drifted across the table, across the decades, and across my mind as I absorbed every word coming from the iPod in front of me. Reagan’s 1964 speech “A Time for Choosing” gripped me with themes that are resonating still and choked me with emotions stirred by truth and eloquence. We sat wistfully.

I remember President Reagan’s charm. Even as a boy, I understood his humor. I miss his charisma, and I do admire his eloquence. But what I long for as a man today is for someone to voice the things I learned then and believe now.

Do I miss Reagan? Sure. But what we need today is not a man who can give a powerful speech. What we need today is a rising tide of people who will hear and speak the truth.

Eloquence does not distinguish right from wrong. Truth does that. And yet, we get so amused by the way a man says something that we pay no heed to what he says! The truth deserves to be stated well, but falsehood is corrupt even when it drips from a silver tongue. We are accountable for the truth even when we are not entertained by it.

Jesus Christ rebuked His generation for rejecting God’s truth. They had rejected the truth though it had been declared through a variety of styles and personalities. Christ said, “For John [the Baptist] came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man [Jesus Himself] came eating and drinking, and they

say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. *But wisdom is justified of her children.*”

Now, John the Baptist was a powerful personality; there is no doubt about that! But his power did not come from his personality. His power came from God’s truth! John was bold, he was well-known, and he was a bit eccentric. But John’s ministry was defined by what he said, not by how he said it! “Wisdom is justified of her children.” That is, the truth will always be vindicated because the truth is what is powerful!

Apparently, Jesus’ personality and John’s were very different. Yet, the truth they both preached—that Jesus is the Christ, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world—was the same! The strength of John’s life was found in God’s truth, not in John’s style or eccentricity.

John 10:41 tells us later that many came to Christ saying, “John did no miracle: but all things John spake of this man were *true*. And many believed on him there” (emphasis mine). Neither personality nor miracles gave force to John’s message. The truth did that!

I say all this to say that what the world needs today is primarily a preacher, not a politician. We need another God-sent revival, not just another “Reagan Revolution.” But revival will not come if God’s people are amused by a preacher’s delivery but not attentive to the truth. We will not see things change if we are so intrigued by the way a preacher expresses passion that we do not catch the truths that inspire that passion.

I will grant you that, as Phillips Brooks said, preaching is “truth through personality.” But personality is the servant. Truth is what must come through because truth is what will outlive the man. Though times have changed, our need and God’s answer have not! The truth hasn’t changed. It still works, and millions are waiting to be convinced by it.

“We need... *people* who will **hear and speak** the **TRUTH.**”





Learning

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

In late 1950, my father returned from an extensive mission trip in Africa. That mission trip in the heart of the Congo saw Dad sometimes preach five times in a day to more than 5,000 people in a service. This trip made a great impact on my father's life and ministry. One of the things the trip did was convince Dad that he needed to start a school! On the mission field, Dad had met a wonderful missionary couple who, while leading a blessed ministry, had lost their own children to the world. Because of this, Dad and Mother had decided that we should travel as a family in revival meetings; and in order to do so, we needed a school. Not one that would have hundreds or thousands of students — this school would be for his three hearing children. So, Mother enrolled us in the Calvert School in Baltimore, Maryland. Their correspondence course had been used for years by the military and many American missionaries.

I would have to say that I was not greatly interested in school in those days. Understand, I did not hate school; it just didn't captivate my imagination. In fact, and I hate to say this, I did not really take school seriously until my junior year in college. Two years out of sixteen was probably more than my parents expected!

At any rate, teaching or training was a great burden of the founders of the Bill Rice Ranch

and thus a great part of the ministry here. A casual observer might be surprised at all of the venues of training incorporated into the Bill Rice Ranch. Look at these examples and learn something!

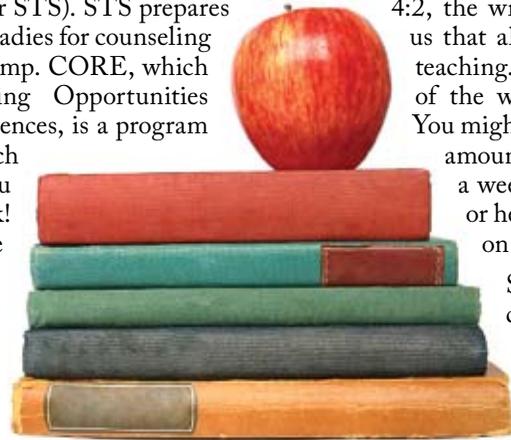
Dad had a "Preachers' School" here on the Ranch for a week during the summers in the 60s. For about twenty-five years we have had classes here in the summer for young men desiring to become evangelists. Of course, the Sign Language School held here on the Ranch every summer is, dare I say, legendary. Currently, we have two summer sessions at the Ranch called Summer Training for Service (or STS). STS prepares young men and young ladies for counseling in the future here at camp. CORE, which stands for Challenging Opportunities and Rewarding Experiences, is a program for young men to teach them how to (are you ready for this?) work! Every summer we have an extensive ten days of training called Orientation Week (or Training Week) that has as its purpose the preparation for more than one hundred summer staffers for service here in the summer camps.

Bill Rice Christian Academy was begun to help train the sons and daughters of permanent staff members here on the Ranch; and this small and

highly successful Christian grammar school has also been the source of learning for several youngsters who live near the Ranch. Through the ministry of the Bill Rice Christian Academy, we see area youngsters come to Christ every year. After all, the salvation of students would be one of the main burdens and purposes of a Christian elementary school, wouldn't it?

One of the most effective arms of teaching here on the Ranch comes through the preaching that is heard here year-round. Here, we believe that teaching is an important element in the preaching of the Bible. In II Timothy 4:2, the writer by inspiration informs us that all preaching should include teaching. That is the clear meaning of the word *doctrine* in that verse. You might be quite amazed to see the amount of teaching that goes into a week of camp for juniors, deaf or hearing teens, and adults here on the Ranch.

So, the Ranch has been committed to teaching truth for over fifty-six years. It has been a significant part of our past and will be, by the grace of God, an important part of our future as well. In fact, in the days ahead you will be hearing of added teaching avenues for the Ranch and more opportunities for folks to come, to learn, and to one day teach others themselves.



BACK AT THE RANCH...

Camp Continues into the Fall

After a brief break at the end of the summer schedule, our staff has been on the go with elementary retreats **(A)** at the Ranch and a youth conference **(B)** in Arizona. We thank the Lord for thirty young people who have been saved during these events. In total we are conducting six retreats in Tennessee and two conferences in the West during September and October. Our annual Advisory Board Retreat will be held October 5-7.

Work also continues in other areas of the ministry. In August, a large, reinforced concrete pad **(C)** was installed for food service delivery at the dining hall. Several other projects are being scheduled for the coming months both in Tennessee and Arizona.

The process to recruit summer staff for 2010 has already begun with several returning staff members signing contracts for next summer. Recruiting staff will travel to six Christian colleges by the end of October.



BRR Twenty Ten

Summer **2010** Schedule

- June 2-11 **Orientation** (Ranch Staff)
- June 13-18 **Junior I** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth I (Carlson, Schettler)
Deaf Week I (R. Rice, Snare)
- June 21-25 **Day Camp**
- June 27-July 2 **Junior II** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth II (Miller, Cook)
Deaf Week II (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 4-8 **Junior III** (Ranch Evangelists)
Family Week I (Flanders, Jones)
- July 11-16 **Junior IV** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth III (Thompson, Redlin)
Deaf Week III (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 18-23 **Junior V** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth IV (Downs, Goetsch)
Deaf Week IV (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 25-30 **Junior VI** (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth V (Coyle, Reilly)
Deaf Week V (R. Rice, Snare)
- August 1-5 **Deaf Adult Conference**
Sign Language School
Family Week II (Jaspers)

THE RANCH IS PEOPLE



Camp's Out, But School's In by Nathan Reeves

It never fails. Every summer someone always asks, "So, what do you do during the school year?" I do not begrudge the question, since our most well-known ministry is our summer camp; but let me give you a glimpse of one aspect of the Ranch "during the school year" – Bill Rice Christian Academy.

As you probably know, the Bill Rice Ranch is a revival ministry that seeks to win the lost and disciple the saved. Bill Rice Christian Academy's purpose is naturally the same—evangelism and discipleship. In 1993, BRCA was created not only to provide Ranch families with quality, Christian education, but also to reach our community around us with the Gospel. Currently, the Academy enrolls forty-two students, eight of which are Ranch kids. The majority of our students live in Murfreesboro, but we have families from ten other surrounding towns and cities as well. We have seventeen new students this year after losing several from last year because of financial need. The Lord has blessed BRCA by giving us an enrollment increase for six straight years while doubling our total enrollment in as many years. We currently offer kindergarten through 6th grade, use the A Beka Book curriculum, have small class sizes, and have a low tuition.



The Lord has given us a superb group of teachers. So much is dependent upon the character, wisdom, and leadership of a godly teacher in a Christian school. Bethany Stover is in her twelfth year at BRCA and teaches the K5-1st grade. She has had as few as three total students and as many as eighteen, her class size this year. Rachel Feaster, who runs Cowboy Town in the summers, is in her fourth year teaching 2nd-3rd grade. Before joining the BRCA faculty, Miss Feaster taught K4 in Illinois; now she thrives in the middle elementary grades. Venita Young is now in her seventh year teaching 4th-6th grade. This is Miss Young's first year traditionally teaching all subjects for all three grades, and she is thoroughly enjoying it. Jennifer Cowart is in her tenth year teaching music and piano

lessons for BRCA. Nathan McConnell started teaching sign language for us in 2007 and will continue with the help of Susanna Flanders. And this is my eighth year as administrator. I count it a true blessing to have had the same classroom teachers for the past four years – that is almost unheard of in the typical Christian school.

Through daily Bible classes, chapels, and one-on-one time, we see a good percentage of our students saved each year. Since the beginning of the school year, five of our students have trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior! Once they



are saved, they can begin to grow as Christians. Leading a child to be born spiritually and training them to grow spiritually brings us the most joy and is why we exist.

So, what do we do during the school year? Well, the method may be a little different than the method during the summer, but, in essence, the work is the same.

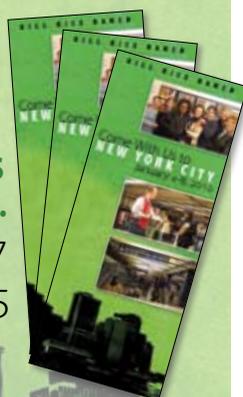
BOOK OF MEMOIRS

OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE BEEN touched by those who have remembered the Bill Rice Ranch in their wills. How amazing it is to see the Lord using people even in their home-going to be a blessing to the ministry here! Several times specific needs have been met by these last generous wishes—needs like renovation project funds, vehicle or equipment purchases, or even monthly salary demands. By extension, we thank those of you whose family members have touched us here by their final thoughtful generosity. And we thank those of you whose gift we may not be aware of now but will, no doubt, thank God for in the future.

Come With Us to NEW YORK CITY January 4-8, 2010

Be a part of a unique mission trip which has seen over 126,000 pieces of gospel literature distributed in six languages and 450 people trust Christ as Savior in the past 8 years. Are you a Christian? Do you have a burden to see souls saved? Then you are qualified to join us!

CONTACT US FOR A BROCHURE WHICH DETAILS THE TRIP.
615.893.2767
Ext. 105



Ranch evangelists are conducting services, revival meetings, and conferences in twenty-four states from Alaska to Florida this fall.

Go to www.billriceranch.org and click on Revival Ministries to view itineraries



and listen to sample sermons.

Come see us in your state this fall!

Needs at the Ranch

- Metal Chop Saw**
- Jack Hammer** (Electric or Air Compressor)
- Rock Drill**
- Leather Sewing Machine**
- Sheet Metal Brake** **PROVIDED THANK YOU!**
- 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



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Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS

Music for Any Size Church

Ranch musical arrangements are not only used by our staff during summer camp weeks and revival crusades, but they are also used by choirs, vocalists, and pianists in large churches all over the country. Piano accompaniment CDs with corresponding vocal CDs help smaller churches to learn and use the fresh, Christ-honoring music as well. Contact the Ranch for a sample CD for your music director, and visit us at www.billriceranch.org to see what's available.



Enjoy some time away with your spouse!

NOVEMBER
5-7



EVANGELIST
NATHAN
MCCONNELL



PASTOR
STEVE
SCHWANKE

DECEMBER
3-5

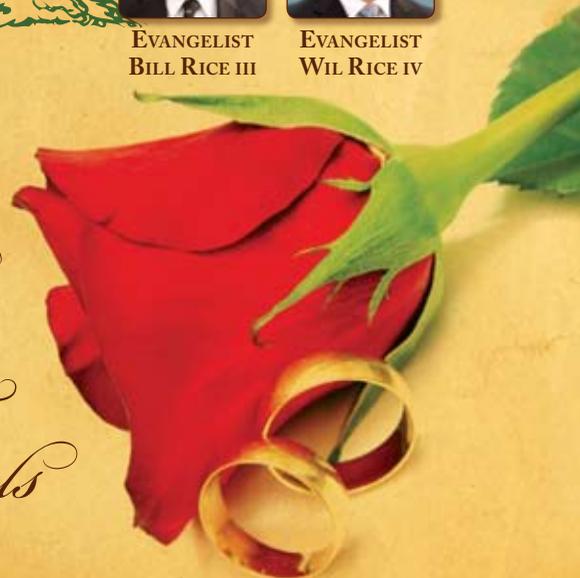


EVANGELIST
BILL RICE III



EVANGELIST
WIL RICE IV

ONLY
\$175
PER COUPLE!



Come to a **Couples Retreat** at the Bill Rice Ranch and enjoy some special time with your mate in a comfortable, Christ-honoring atmosphere! Bring your whole Sunday school class or a group from your church and see the Bible impact homes you care about!

time together
relaxed activities
delicious meals