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Bible Roundup Time, Vol. 1 is a six-month daily devotional guide for junior boys and girls assisting parents in training children to develop a daily pattern of Bible reading.

\$6.00

Excellent resource for children's ministry workers!

\$4.00 each if purchasing 20 or more

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



From the President

Saddle Up and Ride!

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

My grandfather gave me my first horse when I was six years old. On my birthday, I went over to "Talldaddy" and Grandmother's house. Talldaddy sat in a swivel chair in the Great Room of the Ranch House. "Wil, go look behind the arm chair." I did, and found a saddle just my size! "Look behind the other chair." There was a pony bridle!

I may not have been the brightest kid around; but by the time I found the saddle blanket, I was starting to see a pattern! I was only all too happy when I was told next to go to the barn. There, in the last stall, was a shaggy white pony I named "Stonenut" after my imaginary horse at the time. Don't ask me where in the world I got the name or what in the world it meant. I don't know!

Talldaddy had rescued the ornery little Shetland from people who used him at county fairs. Stonenut had been made to grind at the mill, so to speak. With the other dude ponies, he would go round and round a sort of pony merry-go-round with aspiring little cowboys on his back. Our life together would be an adventure new to both of us! We were both off the merry-go-round and free to roam.

I saddled my new set of legs, led him out of the barn, across the draw, and into the Rodeo Arena. By this time, my best friend had joined me, drawn like a horse fly by the scent of horse hide and the prospect of playing cowboy. We climbed on, me in the saddle, my pal on what little space remained behind the saddle. I squeezed the critter's side. My friend kicked Stonenut in the flanks, and all three of us sprang upward like a tennis ball bouncing off the "sweet spot"!

My first eight seconds on my first horse are among the most memorable of our life together.

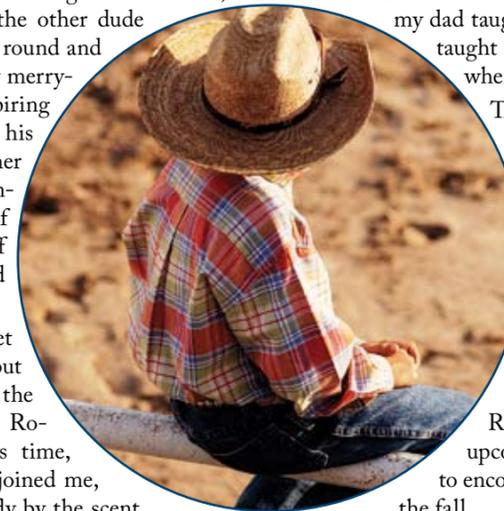
The pony bucked like he meant it, and he was not weary in well doing even though the ride only involved two scared cowboys against one kid-savvy cayuse. By now, I was hanging on for dear life to my new saddle which had slid off my steed's backbone and over to his ribs! My friend, who did not have the benefit of stirrups or a good handle, lay sprawled on the arena dirt where he had landed in a cloud of dust and a blaze of glory.

It is the first time that I can recall riding a bucking horse; but it surely was not his first time to buck, and it would not be the last! In the years to follow, that pony would toss me, my sister, and anyone with the moxie to make him mind.

Most people have an aversion to new things because they don't want to get thrown on their heads! The truth is, I do not know if I would ever have climbed aboard Stonenut for the first time if I had known what was coming; but my dad taught me, as perhaps yours taught you, to "get back on" when you are thrown.

That brings us to this day near the beginning of fall. School will soon start. Summer is now past; and the fall may seem to be standing like a sullen pony in the corner of the corral, daring you to saddle up and ride. Well, let me tell you that the Ranch has a number of upcoming events designed to encourage you as you take on the fall.

Whatever is in store for the season ahead, a rest at the Ranch could give you the courage you need to ride tall into the fall. Please take a look at the back page of this *Branding Iron* to see what is going on in the coming weeks. Get away to a place designed to relax, recharge, and revive you. Make plans, make time, and make a decision that could make all the difference. **Don't wait; let's ride!**



BILL RICE RANCH Helping Local Churches for **Over 50 Years!**

Fall Events

Year-round Retreats & Conferences

LADIES RETREAT

a Recipe for Life

- Helpful Bible Teaching
- Delicious Meals
- Encouraging Fellowship

Cost: \$80
October 14-16



MEN'S RETREAT

HOME IMPROVEMENT



- SOLID PREACHING
- GREAT FOOD
- UPLIFTING FELLOWSHIP

NOVEMBER 5-6 Cost: \$45

CONFERENCE on *Marriage & the Home*

Cost: \$175 per couple

December 2-4

Relax and recharge with a two-night getaway for married couples!



Also, Events for Christian Schools and Homeschoolers!

Elementary Retreats (Grades 3-6)

August 27-28 & September 10-11 **\$15**

Junior High Retreat (Grades 7-9)

September 20-22 **\$45**

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**GET AWAY TO A PLACE
DESIGNED TO RELAX,
RECHARGE, AND
REVIVE YOU.**



Joan Was Just About Perfect

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

I was five years old when I first met Jim and Joan Stoutenborough. We were in Wheaton, Illinois. Dr. Jim was a farmer, pilot, and song leader; and the Stoutenboroughs and my parents were good friends. Even as a youngster in those days, I thought Mrs. Stoutenborough—that's what I called her even after I grew to be an adult—was just about perfect.

I mean as far as I could see, she never got mad, never said the wrong thing; she certainly didn't lie or steal. To my five-year-old heart, she seemed sinless! Now, of course, even at the age of five, my parents taught me that everybody sins. We have a nature that's sinful, they told me, and they showed me where God had said so in the Bible. So I learned that we all sin—I knew that in my brain—I just never included Mrs. Stoutenborough in the word "all." In my heart, she was still perfect.

By the time I graduated from Bible college, the Stoutenboroughs had moved to the Ranch to help Dad and Mother with the ministry here. Dr. Jim assisted Dad, ran our printing press, led singing and did several other things. Joan did everything! She was Dr. Jim's secretary, put the *Branding Iron* together, helped with registration, often answered the phone, sang—got the idea? Everything!

And she did it all with a smile, a friendly word, or even her patented little laugh. You see, she was perfect! Okay, that's not my theological brain

talking. I know better. It is just that it sure seemed that way.

When Dad went to Glory, the Stoutenboroughs were a help to Mother, to me, to all of us here on the Ranch. They supported the ministry completely. Years later when they were of retirement age—though they never actually retired—they moved to be near their daughter, beginning a ministry of *Helps*.

Mary and I stopped in to see them occasionally. It was always a joy. Jim with his rapid-fire explanations about their work and Joan with her sweet smiles, her genuine interest in our work, and her servant's attitude were an encouragement to us.

When she went to be with the Lord, Mary and I joined the family in a memorial celebration for the dear lady I had met when she was in her twenties. People talked about the grace of God and how the Lord had provided the gift of eternal life to Joan who, like us all, was born a sinner. I listened and knew that what I was hearing was true. That Joan was in need of a Savior, I have no doubt. That she trusted Christ and Christ alone for salvation is certainly true. I even know that Joan sinned and, like Mary in the Bible, had a Savior. I know she was a sinner in my brain. I'm still working on that one in my heart!



Joan Stoutenborough

FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE LORD

April 5, 1925–January 10, 2010

A NOTE FROM BRO. WIL—

Like Christmas, summer often brings with it a flood of memories to me. Looking through old copies of the *Branding Iron* can do the same thing. One name that for many years was synonymous both with summers at the Ranch and the *Branding Iron* that chronicled those summers was the name "Stoutenborough."

The Stoutenboroughs first came to the Ranch at the invitation of my grandfather, Dr. Bill Rice. They are among a very special group of people in my life that shaped my earliest impressions of what it was to serve the Lord and to live on the Ranch. They are the kind of people that pioneered the Ranch; they are the kind of people I want my children to follow.

Mrs. Joan Stoutenborough served faithfully with her husband, Dr. Jim Stoutenborough, in a variety of areas including the publication of this paper. Mrs. Stoutenborough passed away in January at the age of eighty-four. We are thankful for her service to the Lord, we are challenged by the sweet spirit with which she served, and we feel privileged to have served with her.

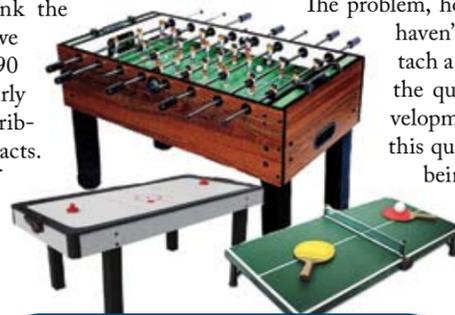
Bill Rice III

FROM West Branch by Evangelist Troy Carlson

The Challenge

The West Branch "word for the summer" is *challenge*. How so? Consider these aspects:

First of all, we are in the midst of the second annual West Branch *Arizona Youth Challenge*, a special contest between youth groups across Arizona. Without leaving their hometowns, they are competing to see which youth group can tally the most points for attending services, memorizing verses, bringing visitors to church, and distributing tracts. The winners receive prizes at the end of the ten-week program and after bonus weeks, which come at different times between now and our Regional Youth Conference in Goodyear, Arizona, September 11. We thank the Lord that last year we saw teenagers bring 90 visitors, memorize nearly 1,000 verses, and distribute over 2,500 gospel tracts. This year, the number of churches participating has more than doubled; and we pray the Lord will bless the teens' efforts to be faithful this summer.



Grand prize for the Arizona Youth Challenge

Another *challenge* of this summer has been to continue developing a plan for the construction of the new West Branch facility in Northern Arizona. We thank the Lord for the progress that has been made to engineer a hauled, potable water system and a large fire protection system. The work has been done largely by a volunteer Christian engineer from Florida with a license to work in Arizona. We are also inching closer to an answer to our sanitation needs on the new site.

The *challenge* often is just in answering the question, "When will the new West Branch site be open?" We have joked that this is the "million dollar question." The problem, however, has been that we haven't been able to actually attach a realistic dollar amount to the question. But with the development of this engineering, this question is in the process of being answered.

Throughout the process, we have been praying for four things regarding the project: *information, favor,*

people, and finances. This engineering work is a partial answer to our request for *information*. As we have seen the Lord answer prayers in these first three categories, we have been emboldened to keep asking for His provision of finances that will be needed to complete the



West Branch site under development

work. How much will that be? We hope to start having realistic goals and let you know soon! Now that we are closer to having engineering that provides an itemized list of what we need for the water systems, we are closer than we have ever been to knowing how much it will cost.

Until then, back to the real *challenge* at hand: to keep helping western churches throughout the year while we wait on the information for the camp site development. So...back to work!

BACK AT THE RANCH...

BILL RICE RANCH



1

Ministry Spanning the Globe Missionary Bob Himes and Evangelist Ronnie Rice led camps earlier this summer in the Philippines at Bacolod and Manila. 1 Over 500 attended these camps with 86 saved.



2

Long Distances and Many Years We have hosted church youth groups this summer from as far away as California, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the East Coast, and the Bahamas. This summer also marked the 50th consecutive year our friends from Troy Baptist Temple 2 of Troy, Ohio, have attended the Bill Rice Ranch!



3

New Friends from Our Own Neighborhood Day Camp, June 21-25, was the first of its kind here at the Bill Rice Ranch. 3 We thank the Lord for seventy-one children from Murfreesboro and neighboring counties who enjoyed a great time each day while learning eternal Bible truths. Many of these young people trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior. It was a joy to meet so many new friends from our area that we hope to minister to in the days and years to come.



4

Record Independence Day Retreat Attendance Three hundred people joined our Family Week already in progress on Monday, July 5, for a thrilling Independence Day Retreat! 4 The day was full of activities from horse rides to swim times along with a delicious barbecue and great services capped off by an outstanding fireworks display. What a joy to see so many neighbors, friends, and former summer staff for this special day!

Attention Youth Leaders!

Don't forget about

FAST TRACK RESERVATIONS

- Secure the week you want for 2011.
- Secure a free week for one church counselor.
- Secure a private deluxe room for church leaders.
- Over \$500 value for only \$100 *FAST TRACK* fee!

Summer 2011 *FAST TRACK* Schedule

- JUNE 12-17**
Youth I (COYLE, SCHETTLER, INGRAM)
Junior I, Deaf Week I
- JUNE 26-JULY 1**
Youth II (CARLSON, COOK, REDLIN)
Junior II, Deaf Week II
- JULY 3-7**
Junior III (Family Week I)
- JULY 10-15**
Youth III (MILLER, REILLY, GADDIS)
Junior IV, Deaf Week III
- JULY 17-22**
Youth IV (THOMPSON, GOETSCH)
Junior V, Deaf Week IV
- JULY 24-29**
Youth V (DOWNS, BEAL, GOETSCH JR.)
Junior VI, Deaf Week V

FAST TRACK opens August 1 and closes September 30. Contact the registrar *today* for a *FAST TRACK* flyer.

W

e thank the Lord for providing for summer staff volunteer allowances for the more than 100 summer staff members that have served with us this summer. The Lord has provided through various means and people including those of you who have given toward our **FAITH PROJECT**.

Would you prayerfully consider helping with the last week of this summer's FAITH PROJECT with a \$50 gift for one summer staff counselor or a \$30 gift for one operational staff member? We will be distributing these volunteer allowances August 6.



Everyone sending a gift marked "FAITH PROJECT" will receive a personal note from a summer staff member you are supporting. In the notes, the staff members will share how God has used them and worked in their lives this summer.

HOME FOR SALE

To fill the need of on-site help at West Branch, friends of the Ranch are attempting to sell their home in the rolling hills of Northwest Tennessee and relocate to Arizona. For more information on their 37-acre horse property with home, outbuildings, wooded trails, pasture, orchard, and stocked pond, please contact Troy Carlson at (928) 635-2097 or westbranch@billriceranch.org.

Needs at the Ranch

- Jack Hammer (Electric or Air Compressor)
- Rock Drill
- Small Sized Self-propelled Road Grader (for upkeep of road at West Branch)
- Digital SLR camera & external flash

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