



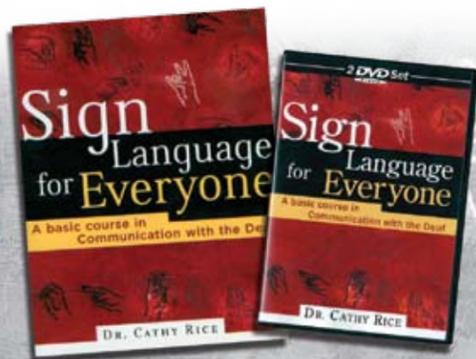
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October–November 2010, Vol. 49—No. 5



From the President

## The Kodiak Bears

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

All right, get out your atlas because you are not going to believe what I am about to tell you unless you can see it for yourself! This week, as I write, I am privileged to be preaching in Kodiak, Alaska. Kodiak Island is the largest island in the United States of America apart from the Big Island in Hawaii. It is over one hundred miles long and about fifty miles wide. Apart from the town of Kodiak, where there is a significant Coast Guard station, the island is largely wilderness with some villages here and there.

Just last Saturday the Kodiak Bears, the local high school football team, played a team from Barrow, Alaska. A story in the Monday edition of the Kodiak Daily Mirror said, "Barrow, which traveled more than 1,000 miles on Friday to get to Kodiak, only brought 21 players for its first game on The Rock." Did you catch that? Barrow High traveled over 1,000 miles for a football game!

This was a regular season high school football game on the last Saturday in August! I understand that Alaska is a vast, sparsely-populated land that often necessitates great travel to do things most of us take for granted. Because Kodiak is an island, sports teams either fly or take a ferry to all of their away games.

Now if you are like me, once you are given a chance to absorb all of this, your mind will be swirling with questions about costs, priorities, and how a town of ten thousand could field teams that compete in games 300 miles or more away on a regular basis. But since I have limited space here, let me tell you what I find most compelling about all of this.

Having recently completed another summer of camp at the Ranch, I am reminded once again that distance is relative. That is to say, something

is either too far or is within range in relation to the priority you place upon it. It is clear, is it not, that Kodiak High places a great priority on its sports program.

The sports and music competitions at the Ranch are definitely a draw to many a teenager because they are fresh and exciting each year. While the dozens of other camp activities during weeks for teens such as broom hockey and water whamo are fun, they must be replaced each summer or risk becoming stale. But the reason churches come to the Ranch is not because of sports. They make the drive to the Ranch because it is a week that changes lives!

When a church comes to the Ranch from California or the Bahamas, it is never accidental. These good churches place a high priority on a week at camp. When families come to camp from Manitoba, Canada, or the Florida Keys, it is because they highly value something about that week!

I was recently privileged to visit a church on the Western Slope in Colorado. My family and I thoroughly enjoyed the services of the morning, and I was thrilled to hear, to my surprise, that the pastor had been called to preach at a Family Week in the 1960s! What an encouraging reminder that the efforts churches make each summer have great value! In the end, each of us does what we want to do, and we make the effort we want to make.

In several days, my family and I will be flying from Kodiak to Anchorage to Denver, where we will pick up our truck and drive over 1,200 miles home. That is a lot of travel, Friend! But it is a privilege to be a part of the ministry in Kodiak, and it is a privilege to be a part of the scores of churches we host in Tennessee each year. In both cases, the drive is worth the difference it will make!



[www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org)



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by Evangelist Bill Rice III

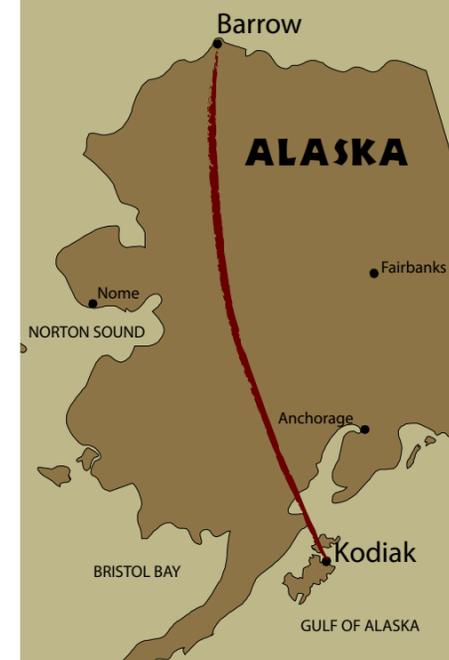
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by Sara Carlson



I AM REMINDED  
ONCE AGAIN  
THAT DISTANCE  
IS RELATIVE

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## You're Fine. How Am I?

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

You remember the old joke, I'm sure. Two psychologists met on a city street. They stopped, shook hands, and spoke.

"You're fine," one said to the other, "How am I?"

Okay, I did not say it was funny; I just said it was a joke. I'm not a doctor, so I can't really tell you that you are fine; although, truthfully, you are just fine if you know Christ. However, I can tell you how we are doing at the Ranch. Interested?

Twenty ten has been a blessed year. West Branch with its **West Branch On The Move** has been busy and productive. Camps for the Deaf in the Philippines and here in Tennessee have had great response. The camps for the Deaf were up in attendance here in Tennessee. The fall schedule on the Ranch is really full, and men from the Ranch will be traveling in a number of areas in the next two months.

I sometimes just sit and marvel at how the Lord has provided for the ministries here since 1953. I do not want to take the Lord's goodness for granted, but His provision in the past is certainly an encouragement to me that His promise to "provide all" our needs in the future is sure.

And I can tell you that our needs this fall are

great. As I write this, Mary and I are in Nevada. Wil is in Alaska. Last weekend over 150 youngsters were on the Ranch in an Elementary Retreat. Others from the Ranch have been or will be in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and Arizona; and it will be like this all fall. So we need you to pray for safety in the thousands of miles that will be traveled, both by those in the ministry and by campers.

During the last part of August, Wil compiled a list of over thirty projects that would greatly improve the Ranch facilities. Two years ago he completely revitalized the entrance. This past year he had air conditioning installed throughout the camp. And now this fall, he has a list of more than thirty projects he intends to complete one by one as the Lord provides. The last and biggest of these could involve the entire campground, making it safer, more attractive, and more usable. Other possible projects include upgrading family rooms, dining rooms, the rodeo arena, and the recreation complex. Sound exciting? It is. Sound ambitious? It is that, too.

Please take part in all of this. Pray and give as the Lord leads. Your standing with us in this ministry is simply what makes the Ranch work. When you are with us and fine, so are we.

## We Never Stop Preparing!

Reaching young people — deaf and hearing — and helping families is a year-round job! **Would you help us continue to do this important work?**

### The Campership Fund

supports the needs of reaching the Deaf. Deaf young people attend camp free of charge, but the Ranch's responsibility is **\$225 per person**.

### The Building Fund

allows us to continue to develop our facilities. Brother Wil is currently contemplating over thirty such projects which can be done one at a time as the Lord provides.

**Would you prayerfully consider giving \$50 toward one of these two funds today?** Of course, gifts of any size are greatly appreciated.

## THE RANCH IS PEOPLE

### Open the Doors and See... by Sara Carlson

I remember my grandfather helping me get my fingers just right... "Here's the church... here's the steeple... open the doors and see all the people." The child's rhyme reminds me that the church is not a place; it is people. I have been to magnificent cathedrals in Europe. While they certainly are impressive feats of architecture, they are not churches. On the other hand, there are many good, fundamental churches today that do not have their own structure. An underground assembly of believers in China meeting in the corners of a dark room is no less a church than the group that meets in the picturesque, white, steepled building set on a grassy hill in rural Vermont. While a building can be helpful to a church, it is by no means a prerequisite.

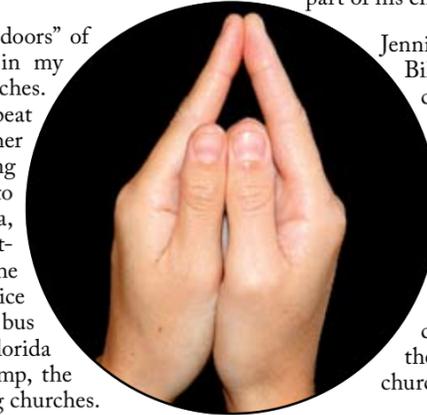
The Bill Rice Ranch has been blessed with a permanent location with multiple buildings. And while the Ranch certainly is not a church, the same truth applies. The Bill Rice Ranch is not a place; it is people. If you could "open the doors" of the Ranch, you would see forty-plus permanent staff members who give themselves to the revival work. You might then notice the over one hundred summer staff that join us for nine weeks of ministry and the thousands of campers who have attended events this year. All these people and more make up the Ranch.

But when I "open the doors" of the Bill Rice Ranch in my mind's eye, I see churches. Churches are the heartbeat of the Ranch. Whether Mandy Griffith is boxing up choir music to mail to a church in Pennsylvania, or Bob Himes is planting a deaf church in the Philippines, or Wil Rice is welcoming a church bus full of teens from Florida ready for a week of camp, the Ranch's focus is serving churches.

We want to be a tool that local churches can use to help further the cause of Christ. But I will let you in on a little secret: we as staff members of the Ranch do play favorites. There are five churches in which we invest special interest; they are our home churches.

Bruce Ford, head of Ranch maintenance, was involved in an outreach that his church, Rutherford County Baptist Church, orchestrated last fall. The "Feeding of the 5,000" event saw over fifty people saved. Bruce said that "the Ranch played a huge part in that" by providing kitchen facilities, equipment, and help.

Evangelist Chris Miller held a revival meeting at his home church, Spring Meadow Baptist Church, about which he said, "My main burden was that my church would see people saved and become more active in soulwinning." That burden led to a man being saved who is now a part of his church.

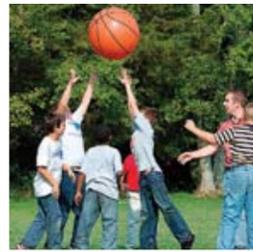


Jennifer Cowart, music teacher at Bill Rice Christian Academy and church pianist at Nolensville Road Baptist Church, told me that this year her church provided funds to bring several bus kids with them to camp, one of which was saved during that Junior Week at the Ranch. Jennifer said, "It was neat to see the church helping the Ranch, but the Ranch was also helping the church."

Vince Stover, who works on camp staff and is also the youth director at Temple Baptist Church, saw one of his teens saved and two others receive assurance of salvation at the Ranch this summer.

As for me, there are few things in ministry that I enjoy more than when the Bill Rice Ranch and my church, Northland Baptist Church, join forces for fellowship, service, soulwinning, and revival. And that working together takes place far more often than you might guess. It is a wonderful thing! I so very much love both places! Oh, did I say places? I meant people.

## BACK AT THE RANCH...



**Ministry around the Country** When fall comes, the Ranch's ministry just spreads out. For instance, on the weekend of September 10-12, Ranch evangelists preached at and held an elementary retreat at home, a youth conference in Phoenix, a deaf rally in New Jersey, revival meetings in Florida, a spiritual emphasis retreat in Oregon, a youth rally in Kentucky, and a couples' conference in Michigan.

To catch up with Ranch evangelists conducting meetings near you, visit [www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org) and click on "Revival Ministries."

**Bill Rice Christian Academy** BRCA began the year with a record enrollment of 55 in K-6th grades, and an additional teacher.

**Work Projects Continue** Projects are always ongoing to improve the Ranch facilities. Last year's efforts led to campers being in air-conditioned rooms last summer! Since the summer, ongoing projects include the air conditioning of a few final rooms and the staining of the fence at the entrance. More projects will come as the Lord provides!



## 2011

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 1-10 **Orientation** (Ranch Staff)

June 12-17 **Junior I** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth I** (Coyle, Schettler, Ingram)  
**Deaf I** (R. Rice, Snare)

June 20-24 **Day Camp**

June 26-July 1 **Junior II** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth II** (Carlson, Cook, Redlin)  
**Deaf II** (R. Rice, Snare)

July 3-7 **Junior III** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Family I** (Mercado, Edwards)

July 10-15 **Junior IV** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth III** (Miller, Reilly, Gaddis)  
**Deaf III** (R. Rice, Snare)

July 17-22 **Junior V** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth IV** (Thompson, Goetsch)  
**Deaf IV** (R. Rice, Snare)

July 24-29 **Junior VI** (Ranch Evangelists)  
**Youth V** (Downs, Beal, Goetsch Jr.)  
**Deaf V** (R. Rice, Snare)

July 31-Aug. 4 **Deaf Adult Conference**  
**Sign Language School**  
**Family II** (D. Hardy, R. Miller)

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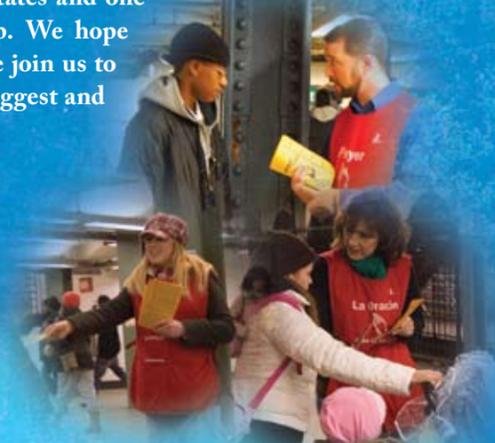
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- Rock Drill
- Small Sized Self-propelled Road Grader (for upkeep of road at West Branch)
- Digital SLR camera & external flash

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