



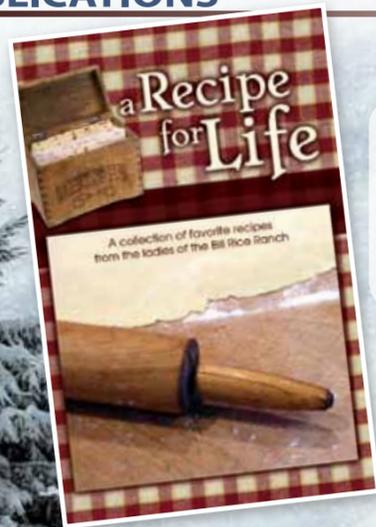
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## Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS



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Inside this issue

**SPECIAL EDITION**

*A Look at the People that  
Make Up the Bill Rice Ranch*



From the President

### Guess What We're Doing! Care To Join Us?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

In 1950, Evangelist Bill Rice and a group of missionaries stepped into a jungle clearing in the heart of the Congo with Bibles in hand. My grandfather had sold his house in Wheaton, Illinois, to take the Gospel halfway around the world to pygmies who had never heard the Gospel.

When Bill Rice returned to the States, he and my grandmother began another mission outreach to another group of people who had largely never heard the Gospel. They too waited behind a language barrier to hear the Good News. They were the deaf people in America, and the Rice's own deaf daughter demonstrated to them the great need.

Just as they had sold what they owned and saved what they could to pay for their mission to the Congo, the Rices now did the same for this new mission to a forgotten people in the United States. In 1953, we hosted our first group of deaf young people here on the Ranch. They had the time of their lives! They met people who loved them and spoke their language. They heard the Gospel and trusted Christ. They came for free.

As the Ranch grew every year, so did the work. Our numbers grew. The number of lives changed grew. The Ranch staff also grew, as did our needs.

Sometimes the outreach grew by spreading across the ocean, as it did and still does with the work of Bob and Brenda Himes in the Philippines. For more than thirty years now, they have been winning and discipling deaf people, helping churches to establish deaf ministries, and hosting camps that have won thousands! Of course, the Himes are not alone in their work! God's people across this country pray and give to make their work possible.

More recently, another man named Nathan McConnell has been doing much of the same work for the Deaf as the Himes. He too helps churches establish deaf ministries. He too runs camps to reach the Deaf. He too is supported by people who believe in his work and want to play a part. The most noticeable difference between Bob Himes and Nathan McConnell is that Nathan lives here on the Ranch!

Of course, Nathan McConnell, his wife Rebekah, and their two boys are just a snapshot

of an entire team of people and their families who have given themselves to the same mission that has animated everyone from Bill Rice to Bob Himes. They are giving themselves for the love of Christ and the people He died to save, and they are serving by faith. While everyone here is "on a mission," no one receives full support as a missionary. In addition, camp fees do not cover the need for all the households that serve here.

For nearly sixty years, God has taken care of generations of His servants here at the Ranch! How has God provided? God has primarily cared for His servants here through the giving of His servants from across the country! Through gifts large and small, the Lord has answered the prayers of those praying for us even as they partner with us.

The new year just around the corner is bursting with possibility. It is the best time to get some preparatory work done that we cannot do as well at another time. While we are making repairs and preparations on the Ranch and spearheading outreaches across the country, like in New York City, the income to do so is also much less than at any other time of year.

I want to thank you for your interest in the ministries of the Ranch and ask you to pray for us in these winter months. Please pray that we will maintain our momentum, that our outreach will grow, and that we will be good stewards of what we already have. Please pray that God will put His work here on the hearts of His people abroad.

Then, if you have any interest in helping us this winter, I want to tell you that you can! Could I ask you to pray about giving to support a Ranch family here? We call this support our "Mission Fund" because it supports the people who own the Ranch's mission and are missionaries to both deaf and hearing people across the country. It is more than support for a project or a thing; it is support for the very people doing the work!

Any gift of any size does help! Every gift is in partnership with people who are grateful for your giving and encouraged by your prayers.

## YC Youth Camp Ages 12-19

**Week I June 10-15**

Jim Cook, John Goetsch, Jr.

**Week II June 24-29**

Wayne Hardy, Matt Downs

**Week III July 8-13**

Ron Reilly, Troy Carlson

**Week IV July 15-20**

Josh Teis, Chris Miller

**Week V July 22-27**

Richard Coyle, Tim Thompson



## Junior JC Camp Ages 8-12

**Week I June 10-15**

**Week II FULL June 24-29**

**Week III FULL July 1-5**

**Week IV July 8-13**

**Week V July 15-20**

**Week VI July 22-27**



FIND OUT MORE ONLINE!

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

- photo galleries
- speaker information
- downloadable forms
- Deaf Camp and Family Camp info



**The Wil Rice Family**

# Some of the people who are the Bill Rice Ranch



## Jones

Jonathan and Carolyn Jones have been serving together here at the Ranch since 2005. Previously, they both had been campers and also counselors here at the Ranch. Jon has served in many different capacities on camp staff, and now oversees recruiting summer staff each year. Carolyn thoroughly enjoyed her responsibilities at Bill Rice Christian Academy but now enjoys being home full-time with their two young daughters, Samantha and Elora.



## Cowart

Don and Jennifer Cowart met here at the Ranch when they served as counselors together in the summer of '96. Jennifer now teaches music at the Academy and oversees the Book Table/General Store in the summer. Don is in charge of the grounds and also helps with maintenance. In all of their different roles, they enjoy being part of a ministry that changes lives! They have two children, Charlie and Breanna, who thoroughly enjoy being "Ranch kids."



## Aulgur

In 2003, Angie (the registrar at the time) was the first person Michael met when he came to the Ranch to become the "Head Cowboy." And as they say, the rest is history! Angie is now a busy mom and oversees the nursery while Michael manages the Ranch's horse program. They happily serve at the Ranch as a family with their children Addison, Bryce, and Aubrey.



## Reeves

Nathan and Jennifer Reeves have served together on full-time

staff since 2002. Both had the privilege of being counselors on summer staff before they were married. Nathan now serves as administrator of the Bill Rice Christian Academy and the director of the Junior Camp program in the summer. Jennifer oversees the Linen Room and housekeeping responsibilities at the Ranch. The Reeves feel that the Ranch is the perfect place to raise their three sons, Adam, Andrew, and Austin.



## Stover

Dale and Pam Stover have served together here at the Ranch for over thirty years. They were actually camp counselors for two summers, where their friendship grew and they married. In the earlier years, they enjoyed traveling in a fifth wheel promoting the ministries of the Ranch and West Branch. For many years now, Dale has served as the ministries coordinator of the Ranch. Pam is invaluable as a secretary at the office, serving in many different capacities over the years. The Stovers have two adult children, Vince and Tara, and two grandsons.

Over 350 saved in 2011 Ranch-sponsored outreaches



## Ford

The Fords had been regular campers at the Ranch, taking part in Couples Retreats and Family Camp, before the Lord called them to take the step of faith and move down to Tennessee from Illinois in 2003. Wearing many hats, Bruce oversees all Ranch maintenance while Anne serves in the Publications Department. Their son Cody serves full time in the military while their daughter Candace serves with them here at the Ranch.



## McConnell

Nathan and Rebekah McConnell moved to the Ranch in 2005, where Nathan became the director of Deaf Ministries. Nathan's three summers as a counselor developed his signing skills and his burden for the Deaf. They now travel across the country helping deaf ministries get started, organizing deaf rallies, and promoting the Ranch's deaf camps. Nathan and Rebekah have two little boys, Warren and Walter.



## Black

Joe is thankful that he can serve the Lord by doing what he loves: fixing things—whether that means plugging a tire for a church bus or fixing a carburetor. Renee helps in various areas down at camp during the summer and also is a full-time homemaker. The Blacks have two young daughters, Joella and Moriah.

Deaf teens have attended camp free for almost sixty years.



## Sallmen

The Lord called Paul and Sharon Sallmen to the Ranch in 2003. Paul has his plate full as the Graphic Designer of our

Publications Department; so CD covers, camp brochures, music books, and even this *Branding Iron* are proof of his God-given abilities! Sharon helps in various capacities during the summer and enjoys being a homemaker. The Sallmens have four children: Jesse, Troy, Tobey, and Silas.



## Finney

Both Frank and Lindsay had the privilege of coming to the Ranch as campers for several summers before they finally met...you guessed it, here at the Ranch. They both worked on summer staff.

Frank started serving at the Ranch full time in 2004, and Lindsay joined the team after they were married at the end of 2007. Frank oversees promotions and also serves actively in the music program. Throughout the fall and spring, they travel with their two children, Alyssa and Ethan helping Ranch evangelists in revival meetings.

Ministry with people from across the country and from The Bahamas, the Republic of Korea, and the Philippines



## Carlson

Hailing from Illinois and Vermont, Troy and Sara met in Tennessee, started dating in Florida, and now live in Arizona! The Carlsons see God's clear hand in placing them in western ministry and love the people and churches they serve. *West Branch on the Move* and church meet-

ings keep the Carlsons and their two teenage children, Abby and Nathan, busy serving the Lord.



## Griffith

After serving on summer staff for three summers, Jake Griffith came on full-time staff in 2003. Through mutual friends on the Ranch staff, he met Mandy, and they were married in 2006. Jake serves as the president's assistant, a position which requires attention to detail and never becomes routine! Mandy has just recently switched jobs from working in the Publications Department to becoming a full-time mom to their new little baby girl, Brooklyn.



## Potter

While Dan is in full-time evangelism, his wife Julie serves as the music coordinator here at the Ranch, a job she fulfills both at home and on the road. Dan and Julie each served multiple summers on summer staff before they came to serve full-time at the Ranch. It wasn't until after they were both on full-time staff that they started dating! Now, over ten years later, they minister as a family to churches all over the country while also filling many needed roles here at the Ranch. They see their two sons, Benjamin and Gabriel, as gifts from the Lord and are glad they can raise them in the "family atmosphere" of the Ranch.

Spiritual decisions by thousands of teens, juniors, and families



## Burt, Willey, Flanders

In 2008, the Lord called Deborah Burt to move from Michigan to the Ranch to help care for Dr. Cathy Rice. She continues to faithfully serve in this capacity and also enjoys helping in the deaf program when she can, since two of her sisters have benefited directly from the Ranch's deaf ministry.

Karen Willey first became acquainted with the Ranch when her two daughters served here as counselors on summer staff. Years went by, and the Lord led her to join the Ranch team in 2004, where she now oversees the Ranch's bookkeeping. She also has her hand in many of the decorating tasks needed throughout the year. A special joy for her is serving with her oldest daughter Jennifer who also lives at the Ranch with her husband Nathan and their three boys.

Susanna Flanders gained a love for the Ranch when she served as a counselor in the summer of 2006. Just a few months later, the Lord opened the door for full-time service here at the Ranch as she traveled with the Wil Rice Revival Team for two years. Now she enjoys serving as the camp registrar and loves working closely with the summer staff ladies and seeing the Lord work in their lives while they are here.



## BRCA Teachers

The Bill Rice Ranch also includes other evangelists, missionaries, Bill Rice Christian Academy teachers, and retired members of the team. Some of these are able to raise their own salaries.

Only 40% of these staff members' salaries are covered by camper fees or other revenue.

The remaining 60% must be raised.

Support the **Mission Fund** Help us accomplish our mission!

- Give a one-time, end-of-the-year gift designated to the "Mission Fund."
- Commit to monthly support for 2012: ○\$10 ○\$25 ○\$50 ○\$100 ○\$\_\_\_\_\_
- Contact us about having a Ranch representative present the ministry to your church. (Jake Griffith: 800.253.RICE ext. 114; jgriffith@billriceranch.org)

Thank you for your partnership with the Ranch. Brethren, pray for us!