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Branding Iron

BILL RICE RANCH MURFREESBORO, TN

February–March 2012, Vol. 51—No. 1



From the President

A Birthday to Remember

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

The month of August brought a new little boy to a ranch family. This

birth has great significance to everyone here, and I hope that the event will be a blessing to you as well. Who am I talking about?

His parents didn't graduate from Bible college, but his dad spent a year at a Bible school in Kentucky. His dad wasn't reared by a family with money, though his mom was. Of course, she married his dad and moved to the ranch! While neither of his parents came from families immersed in "full-time" ministry, his father used to do some preaching in a little Baptist church in Texas.

The boy I am speaking of is Bill Rice, who was born in August of 1912 on his father's ranch south of Dundee, Texas. Early on, his parents dedicated him to God. Along with my grandmother, he established the Bill Rice Ranch outside of Murfreesboro; but his trajectory began on this other ranch long ago and far away....

My granddad was the last child born to Will and Dolous Rice. Will rode as a cowboy, worked in real estate, and served for four years in Austin as a Texas state senator; but the most important thing he ever did was to raise eight children. Bill Rice grew up in a home that

shaped him for the rest of his life, even though both of his parents died by the time he was old enough for college.

He adopted a Scripture verse for his life that the Ranch has adopted for this new year. Colossians 1:18 says of Jesus Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things he might have the preeminence.**" Of course that big, five-dollar word *preeminence* is important! It means, "To be first in rank or influence." Jesus Christ is to be first. "For by him were all things created" and "all things were created by him, and for him" (Col. 1:16).

This life verse was the guiding ethic for my granddad when he spent his savings to buy what would later become Bill Rice Ranch. It is the reason he moved with his family into a two-room, block cabin and began to pioneer the work in Tennessee that God had placed on his heart. It is the reason the Ranch first invited deaf young people from across the country to attend a week of camp for free in 1953. It is still the reason for all that we do! Colossians 1:18 is both the reality of Christ's position and the sincere desire of our hearts.

This year we celebrate a birth, a life, and the verse that gave that life direction. Almost one hundred years ago, on

www.billriceranch.org



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August 25, 1912, Bill Rice was born. Putting Christ first, he would surrender any hopes of a ranch in Texas and obey God by starting one in Tennessee. On that Ranch this summer, Colossians 1:18 will be our theme verse.

On many occasions, in books and Bibles, I have seen my granddad's aging signature and often the accompanying reference of his life's verse, Colossians 1:18. In most cases at this point, the ink of the signature is fading, but the words of the Scripture reference are as fresh and timely as ever. **Christ first.**

Dr. Cathy Rice will celebrate her 97th birthday February 15. If you would like to send greetings, please send to:
627 BILL RICE RANCH RD.,
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DAY OF CHAMPIONS

MURFREESBORO, TN

★ MAY 5, 2012 ★

Speaker: **Evangelist Matt Downs** Cost: \$20 includes lunch &

TOURNAMENTS IN:
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A weekend that can make a difference!

May 18-19, 2012

Speaker: Evangelist Wil Rice IV
Cost: \$45 for father and one son; \$20 for each additional son
Age: First grade and above

Enjoy Horse Rides, Rodeo, Battle Ball, Hikes, Putt-Putt Golf, Buffet-style Meals, and Helpful Preaching.

2012

BILL RICE RANCH



Giving and Getting

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

"If one gives, he will also receive," I often hear, and it is true. But how about this statement often included with the promise: "Yes, if one gives, he'll receive, the Lord says. But you shouldn't give in order to receive." Hear this sentence, and it will almost surely be followed with a chorus of amens!

Does God promise that we will receive if we give? Without question. Could we review some examples?

Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you...."

Proverbs 11:25 says, "The liberal soul shall be made fat...."

Galatians 6:7 says, "...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." The context in Galatians 6 is giving to one who has taught Bible truth.

So, okay, give and you'll receive is true. Should I believe that? Stated differently, should I live by faith and trust God to keep His promise? Well, the answer is most certainly, "Yes."

If I live expecting to receive when I give, then

what would be wrong with giving "in order" to receive? "That's wrong," some would say. "Your motive for giving is wrong!"

Why? I should give.

The Lord said so. I will receive when I give. God says so. I should expect it then. I should live by faith, trusting God to keep His promises so that when I give, I expect to receive.

"Yes, but motive, Bill—motive," I can hear some saying.

Okay, forget the fact that neither you nor I can really know heart motives, and let me ask another question. If one who gives, a giver, expects to receive when he gives, what will he do with that which he receives?

Give!

Is it then all right for one to have a desire to give? Certainly. Great! If you desire to give, how will you have anything to give? The answer:



believe God's promise. Give in order to receive, in order to give. Let me say it this way—give to get to give.

Have you ever heard your pastor ask for a special offering for a specific need?

"The church is helping Missionary Smith in Africa build a church building. Our goal is to send five thousand dollars!"

"Praise the Lord," you think. "I'd love to help, but I just can't."

Why not? Remember "give to get to give"? If you will be a giver, you will be a getter and be able to give. How in the world do you think the widow who gave her two mites was able to give? She gave even though she was a "poor widow." She was able to give because she had given!

I can almost hear someone say, "Are you sure this will work, Bill?" Hey, don't ask me; ask the One who made the promise. His answer will do more for your faith than mine ever could.



Needs at the Ranch

- Pneumatic rock drill
- 3-point sprayer with 200 gallon tank for spraying pastures
- 6 foot T-posts (new or used, up to 150)
- 3-point landscape rake, 7' maximum width (for cinder road upkeep 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

West Branch by Evangelist Troy Carlson

What We Especially Love about West Branch

When Sara and I moved to Arizona in early 1999, we hit the ground running, preparing for two retreats that were just weeks away. I have always enjoyed working with "to do" lists, so we proceeded to get the work done. Looking back, I remember almost nothing about either event except being worn out!

As we reflect on the last thirteen years, though, we remember much more than just being tired. We recall great messages, humorous moments, and even some unusual rental facilities. But what we remember best is also what we anticipate most of all when an event is coming up. It is the people!

We have had the privilege of meeting thousands of people, hundreds of whom have become familiar faces and true friends. We are a ministry dedicated to the truth—but not merely in an academic way. We love helping people. And we have grown to love those people.

I asked a few friends to give some thoughts concerning our upcoming spring events. Their comments blessed my heart. I hope they will bless yours.

I can still picture the time I met Troy Waskey, now of El Prado, New Mexico. He and his pastor were walking across the grounds of a facility

in Flagstaff that we had rented for our **Men on the Move Conference**. It was the first time for either of them to attend one of our events. That day began three friendships, one with a church and one with each of the two men. Troy says, "These events, with their encouraging fellowship and powerful preaching, have contributed to my spiritual growth in a major way. In this day where there are so many worldly pressures on the home, these events are an opportunity to step away from the daily grind and focus on the Lord for an intense and satisfying twenty-four hours."

I am not sure if Troy knows Josh Vinecke from Magna, Utah, or not, but they would have had multiple opportunities to run into each other at the men's conferences. Josh says, "We travel about 1,200 miles round trip in order to attend the men's retreat, and the journey is more than worth it. I find the conference such a blessing in my own life that I try to get all the men I know to attend."

Russ Evans from Yuma, Arizona, adds, "We have a great time getting to know some of the other men in our church on the five hour drive. Many of our men have made commitments that are life-changing." We have seen Brother Russ many times in the past ten years on his "home

turf" and ours. It blessed me when he added a personal anecdote of a family member who particularly gained help from a conference.

Our events are not just for men, of course. Ruth Ann Larkly, a pastor's wife from Cottonwood, Arizona, has attended family and ladies' events. Concerning the Conference on Marriage and the Home, she says, "The preaching and music were great! My daughter really enjoyed her Bible class, and the organized nursery was such a blessing. As a family, we left encouraged, refreshed, and challenged from God's Word." This is a family that loves the Lord and serves Him faithfully. You have no idea how much it means to us to play a small part in their lives in this way.

These friendships are sometimes very close to home. My own fellow church member, Lee Music of Flagstaff, Arizona, said, "So many times, my wife and I will be talking about a matter and will bring up a message from one of the conferences to help us in that exact matter. The Lord has certainly been a huge blessing to my family and me directly through the efforts of these conferences."

You talk about fulfilling! That's worth all the "to do" lists that come our way to provide an avenue for people to gain concrete help.

Do you want to know what we really love about West Branch? It's the people—the people who come to these events, the churches they populate, and the pastors they follow. Now it will be but a few days before we see a whole bunch of them again!

BACK AT THE RANCH...

Taking the Ranch across America

In the first quarter of 2012, the Ranch's ministry is extending from Manhattan to South Florida to the Arizona desert.

New York City Trip The 11th Annual New York City Evangelistic Trip was held January 9-13 with 29 team members and 17 local workers participating, resulting in 83 people trusting Christ as Savior. In eleven years of ministry in Manhattan and Brooklyn, 772 have been saved! Pray about joining us next year, January 7-11, 2013.

Teams and Conferences Evangelists Wil Rice IV, Bill Rice III, and Troy Carlson are leading teams to Florida and Arizona churches in January and February. These teams will also conduct the 4th Annual Florida Regional Youth Conference (February 4), the Southwest Regional **Men on the Move** Conference (March 16-17), and the conferences listed on the opposing page.

Work Back Home Friends from around the country have helped us work on several projects back home. Friends from Virginia erected a new sanitation plant building last fall, and friends from Missouri donated heavy duty awnings outside the dining hall to shield campers waiting for meals from sun and rain.

Summer staff counselors and operational staff positions still available!

Someone Call a Nurse!

We need someone with medical expertise (RN, Paramedic, PA, etc.) to serve as our camp nurse this summer. Responsibilities include supervising our First Aid Station with several college-aged first aid assistants.

Here's how three former summer camp nurses have described their experiences:

"Camp nursing gave me the opportunity to interact with people of all ages, from the toddlers and grandparents during Family Week to the juniors and teenagers."

"So many campers bring needed prescription medications to camp. Having a professional on staff to take care of that allows parents and church counselors to focus on why they are at camp—to minister to their campers."

"The Ranch is a wonderful place to be—lasting friendships are formed, spiritual refreshment is received, and children's lives are transformed."

If you or someone you know might be interested in filling this vital position for next summer, please contact the Bill Rice Ranch Recruiting Department by emailing recruitment@billriceranch.org or calling (615) 893-2767, ext. 115.

Upcoming Conferences on Marriage and the Home.

Arizona Regional	February 24-25	Phoenix, AZ
Texas Regional	March 2-3	Lubbock, TX
South Georgia Regional	March 23-24	Thomasville, GA
Ohio Regional	April 20-21	Dayton, OH

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Thanks for joining us!

We're on a mission for 2012—a mission to preach the gospel and see lives changed. That's why we appealed to you for help with our staff Mission Fund in the last Branding Iron. Thank you for responding and helping us with special end of the year gifts! Above all, please pray for us!

And now, more on the mission:

Missionary Bob Himes is making preparations for the 32nd season of deaf camps in the Philippines this spring. Camp is already scheduled in Luzon, May 14-18. Fifty-nine campers were saved last year.

As is true in our deaf camps in the States, Filipino deaf young people come free of charge. This is made possible by gifts to the Campership Fund. To contribute to this important evangelistic outreach, please mark your donation as "Deaf Camps: Philippines." Your donation this month will help Brother Himes in his preparation for this important effort.



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Please send all donations to:
Bill Rice Ranch
627 Bill Rice Ranch Rd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37128.

Save \$15 by registering before February 28! (Youth & Junior Camps)

2012 SUMMER SCHEDULE

- May 30-June 8** Orientation (Ranch Staff)
- June 10-15** Juniors I (Ranch Evangelists) Youth I (Cook, Goetsch, Jr.) Deaf I (R. Rice, Snare)
- June 18-22** Day Camp
- June 24-29** Juniors II (Ranch Evangelists) Youth II (Downs, W. Hardy) Deaf II (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 1-5** Juniors III (Ranch Evangelists) Family I (Flanders, Denson)
- July 8-13** Junior IV (Ranch Evangelists) Youth III (Reilly, Carlson) Deaf III (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 15-20** Junior V (Ranch Evangelists) Youth IV (J. Teis, Miller) Deaf IV (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 22-27** Junior VI (Ranch Evangelists) Youth V (Coyle, Thompson) Deaf V (R. Rice, Snare)
- July 29-Aug. 2** Deaf Adult Conference Family II (Amsbaugh, Gagliano)