



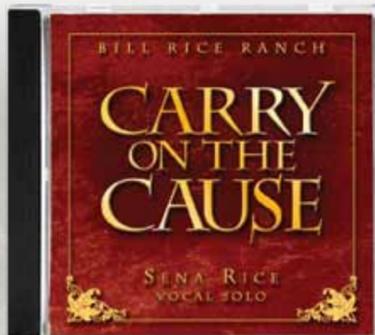
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## Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS



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January–April, 2013, Vol. 52—No. 1



From the President

## The Future You Can See from Here

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

**N**othing is as frightening as the future. Sometimes we fear the future because of what we see coming, and sometimes we fear it because we don't know what to expect!

Often, believers shrink from the book of Revelation for both of these reasons. They see the book as foretelling dreadful yet uncertain events. Such a view is shortsighted for a person with such a vantage point.

This book is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"! What God reveals here is from Jesus Christ. What God reveals here IS Jesus Christ!

That is why Christ assured John by saying, "Fear not: I am the first and the last." Jesus Christ comprises the bookends of history. He is the focus. It is His story. He made this world; He came to this world; and He is already in the future we sometimes view with anxiety.

The bottom line is this: I need not know the future when I know the One Who will greet me there. Knowing Christ is better than understanding the future! He knows my future;

He knows my heart within; and He is sufficient in every age.

Suppose I am driving with my family from the Ranch to the state of California. What does my eight-year-old ask me two hours into the journey? "Daddy, how far do we have to go?"

Now, I could answer that question by pointing to signs on the interstate. "Son, there is a sign that says that we are now only 1,940 miles from San Diego." Will that answer satisfy his question? Does he fully comprehend signs, miles, and ETAs? Probably not.

But if Weston knows his dad, he need not understand every sign. When I arrive safely in California, I am taking my child with me.

When you belong to the Lord, you need not understand every sign in order to have confidence about the future. You know the One Who holds all creation in His hands!

He is the first, and He is the last. This is a new year! He is the same Jesus! Fear not.



www.billriceranch.org



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"Knowing *Christ* is better than UNDERSTANDING the *future!*"

Visit **billriceranch.org** for photos, videos, registration forms, and exciting opportunities!



scan this code with your smartphone!



## Starting to Continue

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

In three days, Mary and I will be heading out to Arizona. We will leave the Ranch, Lord willing, at 4:00 a.m.; and traveling with us will be a dear friend and two of our grandchildren.

The trip to West Branch in Williams will take twenty-five hours. That will be broken up into fifteen hours on the first day and ten on the second. Mary and I will be in Arizona for a little more than two weeks. Brother Jim (our friend) and Lauren and Wilson will fly back to Tennessee after five days in Arizona.

The reason for the trip? Well, Mary and I will be helping Troy and Sara Carlson with some things at West Branch. But the five of us traveling in the Mountaineer to the West will be met by another friend, and all six of us are going to take a three day hike in the Grand Canyon!

I can hardly wait!

You may be thinking, "Well, of course you are excited, Bill. You're going to hike the Canyon!"

It is true that to me it is always an exciting thing to hike into the Grand Canyon, but that is not the only reason I am, shall we say, eager. I am looking forward to the drive out. I am looking forward to being at West Branch. I am looking forward to hiking the Canyon, and I am looking forward to the drive back to the Ranch!

I have done all of these things before. The trip out and back, the stay and work at West Branch, the hike in the Canyon, and the time with family and friends are all things that I have done many times in the past. I am not excited about the Canyon because it will be my first time to see it, though that would be exciting. I am not excited about the trip because it is my first time to drive the 1,600 miles. "Been there, done that" in both cases.

I am just thrilled to death because I get to make the trip, I get to stay at West Branch, I get to hike the Canyon, and I get to be with family and friends AGAIN! Isn't that great?

I am all for starting new things, but often I reflect on the truth that starting is overrated. Which is

more exciting to you—starting to breathe and eat as a baby or being able to continue to do both now? Which would be more rewarding—joining a new church or being an active member in the one to which you belong? Beginning is brief at best. Continuing is what makes the world go around. I know it may be easy to be "weary" in "well doing." But we shouldn't be. Keeping at it, continuing, or "well doing" is what life for God's people is all about.

I am sure you know that in 2013, the Bill Rice Ranch will be celebrating its sixtieth anniversary.

Amazing.

But when you think of God's past blessings through these sixty years, do not forget the continued blessing of God needed in this ministry in the days ahead. Yes, I am excited about the planned trip we will make to Arizona. The Canyon will be great, as well as family and friends. We have made the trip before—we have hiked with family and friends before; and that is why it is so exciting to be able to do this again. The Ranch has been here since 1953, and that is wonderful. But more importantly, it is still here. And by the grace of God it will still be here in the years ahead. I can hardly wait!



## BACK AT THE RANCH...



### Exciting Fall Retreats

Just as quickly as the summer came to a close, the gears started turning for our fall retreats! Contrary to what many think, our camps do not end with the summer—they continue into the fall starting with our **elementary and junior high retreats**. We are thankful for another great turnout this year with over four hundred young people in attendance and twenty-seven who trusted Christ for salvation. What a great way for these schools to start their school year, and what a wonderful start to our retreat season!



Not long after our school retreats ended, we hosted our annual **Ladies' Retreat**. We have seen steady growth in attendance to this retreat over the last few years, and this year we surpassed two hundred ladies. A new highlight to the schedule was an evening bonfire with the Wild West Frontier & Rodeo Show on Friday night, a program which provided lots of laughter and memories! As always, the best part of the retreat

was the helpful Bible teaching aimed specifically at the needs of women. Once again, the retreat proved to be both refreshing and challenging to all of the ladies there.



November brought a great group of men to us for the **Men's Challenge**. These men came from ten different states including Florida, Michigan, Missouri, and Virginia. They enjoyed hearty food and great fellowship with each other over the span of two days. But the lasting effects from this retreat came from the many decisions that were made in response to the six challenging Bible messages that were preached by Bill Rice, Billy Ingram, Matt Downs, and others.



### Needs at the Ranch

- **Pneumatic rock drill**
- **6 foot T-posts** (new or used, up to 50)
- **Digital SLR camera & external flash**
- **Five to seven Quarter-type horses 4-12 years old** (preferably well-trained)
- **3-point landscape rake** (for cinder road upkeep at West Branch) **PROVIDED!**
- **3-point sprayer with 200-gallon tank** (for spraying pastures) **PROVIDED!**

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 Jake Griffith, 615-893-2767, ext. 114 or [jgriffith@billriceranch.org](mailto:jgriffith@billriceranch.org)



Our fall retreat season closed with our **Conference on Marriage & the Home**, November 29–December 1. Because this retreat has become a favorite for many, it filled up quickly this year. The Christmas theme created a warm and inviting atmosphere, and the fellowship and fun among the couples was just as warm! We trust that the practical preaching on the home will benefit their marriages and families for years to come.

## FROM West Branch by Evangelist Troy Carlson

### The Hope of Christmas

Hoping to get something good for Christmas this year? I bet every kid you know is! It's hard now to remember what most of my childhood hopes were. Those *hopes* really weren't very important and usually weren't too confident. I was certainly not a deprived child, but I admit that some of my hopes may have been a bit unrealistic.

The Bible uses the word *hope* many times, but not in exactly the same sense. *Hope* in the scriptures is a word meaning confident expectation—an expectation you are sure of even though it has not yet fully come to pass. It is certain because of the trustworthiness of the One Who promised.

The Apostle Paul said that he lived "in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2). His confident expectation was to live forever with God, based on God's promise. The Apostle John wrote, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may *know* that ye have eternal life...[emphasis mine]" (I John 5:12a).

Many do not have this hope, this confidence. The Bible speaks of those who are without Christ as "having no hope, and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). Seeing many



people go through difficult times in their lives, I have thought, "I don't know how they can do it without God!" As our society tries to remove Christ from Christmas, remember that the Bible says *without God* equals *without hope*.

Yet the hope that Jesus provides goes far beyond this life. That is comforting because our *existence* goes far beyond this life. The Bible says, "If in *this life only* we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable [emphasis mine]." As much

as I love this life and the blessings in it—my family, friends, and ministry—I also know that this life will come to an end. Hopefully not soon, but at some point it will end. Faith in Christ for forgiveness of sins provides hope—confident assurance of eternal life. "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..." (Hebrews 6:19a). That's steady, reliable, and comforting.

Christmas really is all about hope—not the hopes of children for toys that will soon be forgotten, but the hope of eternal life provided by a Savior Who was born two thousand years ago. Our hope is in the reliable Son of God.



*O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!*

*Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;*

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light—*

*The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.*

[O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, PHILLIPS BROOKS]

## Calendar OF EVENTS

### SEASONAL RETREATS

- Day of Champions ..... **April 27**
- Conference on Marriage & the Home ..... **May 2-4**
- Father/Son Adventure ..... **May 17-18**

### REGIONAL EVENTS

- Conferences on Marriage & the Home Phoenix, AZ ..... **February 8-9**
- Lubbock, TX ..... **March 1-2**

- Florida Youth Conference Land O' Lakes, FL ..... **February 9**
- Men on the Move Williams, AZ ..... **March 15-16**
- Ladies' Spring Getaway Flagstaff, AZ ..... **April 27**

### SUMMER CAMPS

- Youth I/ II/ III/ IV/ V/ VI/ VII/ VIII/ IX/ X/ XI/ XII ..... **June 9-14**
- Day Camp ..... **June 17-21**
- Youth II/ III/ IV/ V/ VI/ VII/ VIII/ IX/ X/ XI/ XII/ Deaf II ..... **June 23-28**
- Family I ..... **June 30-July 4**
- Independence Day Retreat ..... **July 4**
- Youth III/ Junior III/ Deaf III ..... **July 7-12**
- Youth IV/ Junior IV/ Deaf IV ..... **July 14-19**
- Youth V/ Junior V/ Deaf V ..... **July 21-26**
- Family II/ Deaf Adult Conf. **July 28-Aug. 1**

**Ministry INTERNSHIP** Two-week  
*Preparing for the future while investing in others!*

**Session I:** July 7-19, 2013  
**Session II:** July 14-26, 2013  
**Cost:** \$120

**For high school graduates ages 17-20**

**First Week:** classroom instruction, daily observation, nightly services  
**Second Week:** hands-on involvement in Youth (ages 12-19), Junior (ages 8-12), or Deaf (ages 9-19) Camp programs

For a brochure or application packet, email your name and address to [internship@billriceranch.org](mailto:internship@billriceranch.org) or call **800.253.RICE, ext.184.**

**FAMILY CAMP**

**WEEK I**  
**June 30-July 4**  
(Jim Schettler & Jim Cook)

**WEEK II**  
**July 28-Aug. 1**  
(Dave Hardy & Richard Coyle)

**The Perfect Family Vacation!**

**Recruiting Update:** Our eyes are already on next summer, and our recruiting for summer staff is well underway. Our needs include counseling staff, operational staff, and high school young men for the CORE program. If you are interested or know of young people who may be interested, please visit our website for more information. [www.billriceranch.org/camps/opportunities](http://www.billriceranch.org/camps/opportunities)