

Branding Iron

BILL RICE RANCH MURFREESBORO, TN



From the President

Spinning Your Wheels

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

As a skier, I have had a recurring dream. I am at the base of a snow-covered mountain, watching the ski lift disappear into the pines a quarter mile up-slope. Friends are loading onto the lift while others are unleashing their skis on the wide runs up higher.

I look at the boards on my own feet, then wistfully to the place where the chair (the one I should be riding up the mountain) becomes a tiny speck. I feel like I am bidding farewell to a dear friend who is launching out on a fantastic voyage...without me. I am a frustrated skier with no lift ticket, so close and yet...

That dream (or nightmare) came true this spring when my family and I were out at West Branch in the high country of Northern Arizona. From the cinder road leading to our cabin, we could clearly see the snow caps of the San Francisco peaks, dragging the clouds at well over twelve thousand feet above sea level and thirty miles from our own vantage point.

We had worked ahead, carved out some free days, and eagerly planned a day of skiing as a family. The day we had scheduled to ski was beautifully overcast with a sky heavy with snow. The clouds emptied themselves on the Mogollon Rim, much to our delight.

That Friday, we packed a lunch, our Mountaineer, then ourselves for the drive through a winter wonderland to the base of Arizona Snowbowl. Our expectations were nearly as high as the peaks themselves when we arrived at the final approach that threads its way to the base-lift.

There, standing as a sentry to our switchbacks was the sign that dashed our plans. "No vehicles beyond this point without snow chains or four-wheel drive." There it

was, the spoiler waiting to snow on our parade. For crying out loud, Tennesseans have never heard of snow chains, and I had opted for a two-wheel drive Mountaineer years ago!

You may not be a skier, but surely you know the frustration of having great plans void of good preparation.

Preparation makes our plans possible. While we use these two words almost interchangeably, I am speaking here of a plan that is basically a wish and preparation that is the work done to make that plan a reality.

I am amazed each year by the people who come across two time zones or an ocean to spend a week with us on the Ranch! How do they do it? Well, certainly they are motivated by a desire to come. But "if wishes were diamonds, beggars would be kings." Taking action gave them traction.

The difference between these friends and the Rice family, spinning their wheels at the base of their destination, is simply preparation. These churches determine a year ahead of time which week they will come to camp. These young people begin saving their money in September. These pastors and youth workers begin praying in March. These families coincide their week of vacation with hundreds of others who gather at the Ranch.

These days, we at the Ranch are busily making plans for the coming summer. Just as importantly, we are making preparations for these friends, old and new, who will come from all across our country and abroad. We believe that the summer ahead is well worth the preparation now. Don't you agree?



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"Preparation makes our plans POSSIBLE"

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



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The Compliment

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

The service was over. I had just finished preaching at a Family Conference in the Midwest. Heading for the back door in the auditorium, I met three or four adults who were standing in the aisle talking. I said howdy to those in the small group and shook hands with a couple of them. A lady in the group smiled and paid me a wonderful compliment.

“Well,” she said, “I used to hear your dad preach, and now my grandchildren are hearing you!” I thanked her and mumbled something like, “Well, that’s a blessing.” But her brief and kind statement caused me to think.

This sweet lady, though she was younger than I, was able to hear Dad when she was just a youngster. Now her grandchildren, who are obviously young, had heard me. The comment was intended to be a blessing to me, and it was. However, the encouragement I received came for a reason that might be different than you would think.

I appreciated what she said. I was encouraged

by what she said. And I knew she meant the compliment to be exactly what it was. But what she said drew my attention more to her family than to mine. As a youngster, her parents had seen to it that she was under the influence of Bible preaching. Dad wasn’t the only preacher she heard as a teenager, of course. But it is obvious that her dad and mom wanted her to hear the Bible preached.

She and her husband had the same concern for their own children. They wanted their children to be under the influence of Bible preaching. I know this because her children were now burdened that her grandchildren hear the Bible preached. Think of that—four generations, influenced by the Bible as it is faithfully preached.

Obviously, her parents understood Bible preaching to be important and wanted her to be influenced by it. She wanted her children to be under the influence of the Bible, and now her grandchildren are, as well.

It was important to her dad and mom. It became important to a young lady. It would be important

to her children and then to her grandchildren. This family was consistent. Dad and Mom had a priority, and this priority of being under the authority of Bible preaching reached the next three generations!

This family is still at it! I do not know if this dear lady’s parents are still alive; I expect they are, but whether they are or not, their great-grandchildren are carrying on the tradition.

And I thought of one more thing. All her dad and mom had to do was to have the right priority in their generation and then pass it on. This wonderful priority was lived by the daughter, who became the mother and then the grandmother. Dad and Mom passed Bible truth on to their children, who passed this truth on to those generations who would own the future.

I will not be around when my great-great-grandchildren live on this earth. I don’t have to be. My great-grandchildren will be here, and they can carry on with what my grandfather taught Dad. My great-grandfather was a couple of generations before me. My great-great-grandchildren will be a few generations into the future. What I am now was greatly influenced by what my fathers were in the past and will have an impact on what my children will be in the future.

“This priority of being under the authority of Bible preaching reached the next three generations!”

BACK AT THE RANCH...

No Time for “Down Time”

Though some may consider January through April to be our “off season,” these months were filled with activity both on and off the property. January’s outreach began with our annual **New York City Evangelistic Outreach**. We were thrilled to have a team of 49 people, representing states all across the country. By God’s grace, the team handed out 35,000 pieces of gospel literature, saw 51 decisions for salvation, and many other decisions made for Christ in those 5 days!



Revival outreach continued into February when the Ranch hosted **Conferences on Marriage & the Home** in Bradenton, Florida, and in Lubbock, Texas. Both conferences were very well-attended, and we trust that many families were helped. Our **Florida Regional Youth Conference** saw its best attendance yet with almost 200 teens and youth leaders from all

over Florida. The day was filled with exciting tournaments, crazy games, and solid, Bible preaching by Evangelist Billy Ingram. How thankful we were for many decisions that were made for the Lord that day!

The evangelists and travel staff were not the only ones staying busy in the first few months of this year. Around the Ranch property, much was accomplished in preparation for the upcoming retreats and summer camps. Some of the finished projects include the clearing and construction of our new paintball course, roof repairs and painting of the Patio, roof repairs at Cowboy Town, air-conditioning maintenance, general landscaping, and many other needed improvements. **Two work groups** joined forces with the Ranch men in February; and twenty-nine men from the area came out to help on our **Work Day**, April 6. This work could not have been accomplished without their help!

As the weather got warmer and spring moved in, we welcomed many local families to the Ranch property for our third annual **Open House**



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)

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

on April 20. What a highlight this has become not only to our community but also to the Ranch staff! The day was filled with free pony rides, hot dogs, and tours of the Ranch.

Hundreds of people came to see firsthand what the Ranch is all about. As a result, many parents registered their children for our evangelistic Day Camp or even scheduled a tour of Bill Rice Christian Academy. We are so grateful to extend the ministry to our neighbors right at our “back door.”

Though summer is right around the corner, several retreats have yet to take place before the summer season begins. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store!

On the Verge

For several years we have been praying for the development of West Branch in four areas: 1) Information, 2) Favor, 3) People, and 4) Funds. Along the way God has clearly given us answers in each area. For instance, it was big news when we found out we could have a standard septic system instead of an elaborate alternative system. That was *information* we needed! During this whole process, we have been greatly encouraged by how positive the county officials have been. That's *favor*! When we did the septic testing, God sent a crazy Russian to dig the test holes (seriously, that's the name of his company—Crazy Russian Septic). He went above and beyond what we expected and helped us find the ground that was suitable for the septic field. That would be an answer in the *people* category. Also, in the past year, over \$50,000 has come in to help with development. That answer completes the list with *funds*. These answers to prayer are all important steps on the road to our completing the West Branch development. Yet we know there are many more answers needed. That's what we are praying for, and that's what we hope you will be praying about too.

This spring God has answered more prayers by causing us to take additional steps forward. First, we are now into the water and sanitation permitting process. Second, God has brought Bill & Barb Bach to us from central Missouri to manage the development project. They moved to West Branch in March. As the new project coordinator, Brother Bach is managing the many steps needed to complete the camp project. This includes pursuing leads on equipment and help, getting bids, and dealing with local agencies. He will also manage volunteer work groups this summer and complete "loose ends" projects in the buildings already constructed.

As we look to God to continue to answer prayer, could I ask you to do three things? First, please regularly check the development page of www.westbranchAZ.org for updates. Second, please pray for all four areas of need, but especially the need for funds. Finally, would you pray about possibly helping in this important work? Through giving or volunteering, you may be the next answer to our prayers.

Seeing God answer prayer by giving us an abundance of information, favor, and people



Bill & Barb Bach

New project coordinator of West Branch

lately, encourages me that He will also provide substantially more funding to keep this project going and complete the work. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Because I am confident God has directed in the development of West Branch, I believe He will provide everything we need to complete this project. We are now on the verge of taking a major step forward to reach that goal.

Very soon, approximately **100 summer staff members** will arrive at the Ranch to volunteer their time as counselors, operational staff, and Summer CORE workers. Every one will come trusting God to provide their needs in response to their giving the summer to the Lord. **The Ranch is also trusting the Lord to provide** what we will give them as a weekly volunteer allowance to take care of minor expenses they have while here. We give out volunteer allowances weekly beginning **June 8**, before the first week of camp.

Would you pray about entering into this **FAITH PROJECT** with us? Whether you have a little or a lot that you can share, your gift will be greatly appreciated and reap eternal dividends. You might consider one of these FAITH PROJECT levels:

FAITH PROJECT Level	Gift Amount	Provides for
Level 1	\$50 gift	one counselor for one week
Level 2	\$135 gift	one CORE position for the summer
Level 3	\$270 gift	one operational staff member for the summer
Level 4	\$450 gift	one counselor for the summer



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

Calendar OF EVENTS

SPRING RETREATS

- Conference on Marriage & the Home **May 2-4**
- Father/Son Adventure **May 17-18**

SUMMER CAMPS

- Youth I/ Junior I/ Deaf I **June 9-14**
- Day Camp **June 17-21**
- Youth II/ Junior II/ 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 Camp **July 28-Aug. 1**

FALL RETREATS

- Elementary Retreat 1 **Aug. 22-23**
- Elementary Retreat 2 **Sept. 6-7**
- Junior High Retreat **Sept. 16-18**
- Ladies' Retreat **Oct. 10-12**
- Men's Challenge **Nov. 1-2**
- Conference on Marriage & the Home **Dec. 5-7**



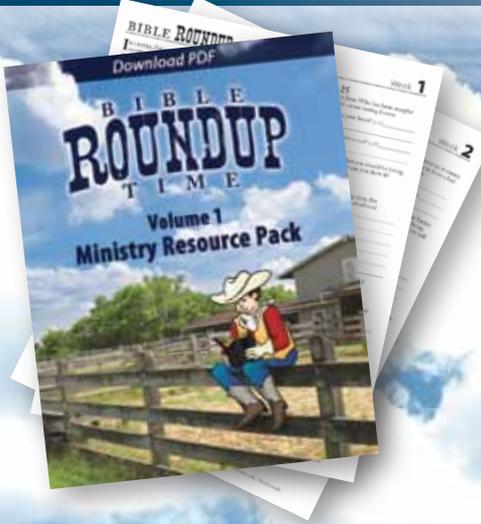
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Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS



Bible Roundup Time, Volume 1 by Evangelist Troy Carlson is a daily devotional guide for boys and girls written to assist adults in training children to develop a daily pattern of Bible reading. Each day includes a brief explanation of the passage and basic questions for comprehension.

This **Ministry Pack** version is designed for ministries that wish to distribute devotionals on a weekly basis to children.

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Independence Day RETREAT July 4

All-day event for the whole family!
COST: Adults \$15, Kids \$10
Register early and save!

Enjoy great preaching, swimming,
a rodeo, two meals, Cowboy Town, and
spectacular fireworks!



Make your plans now—register today!

a time to Ladies' Retreat

Reflect

October 10-12 Cost: \$90



Guest Speaker:
Wanda Stewart
Pastor's Wife

- ♥ Helpful Bible Teaching
- ♥ Encouraging Fellowship
- ♥ Delicious Meals
- ♥ Country Craft Fair

Host Speakers:
Mary Rice, Wil & Sena Rice

MEN'S CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 1-2 COST: \$50

SOLID PREACHING • GREAT FOOD • UPLIFTING FELLOWSHIP



Jim Cook,
Evangelist

TARGET CHALLENGE —Shoot to win prizes on Friday afternoon

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