

Branding Iron

BILL RICE RANCH MURFREESBORO, TN



From the President

Why There Is Comfort Beyond Christmas

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

It is hard to wait for Christmas! We know it will come, but anticipation has a way of stretching time. That is why I've been known to rattle a gift-wrapped box or two in early December.

Imagine if you had been waiting more than seven centuries for Christmas. That is how long, and much longer, devout Jews had waited for God's Christ!

Luke says of one such man, Simeon, that he was "just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ."

What about you? Do you look about your world and wish for Christ? Good. It is well that you do. But comfort is available right now!

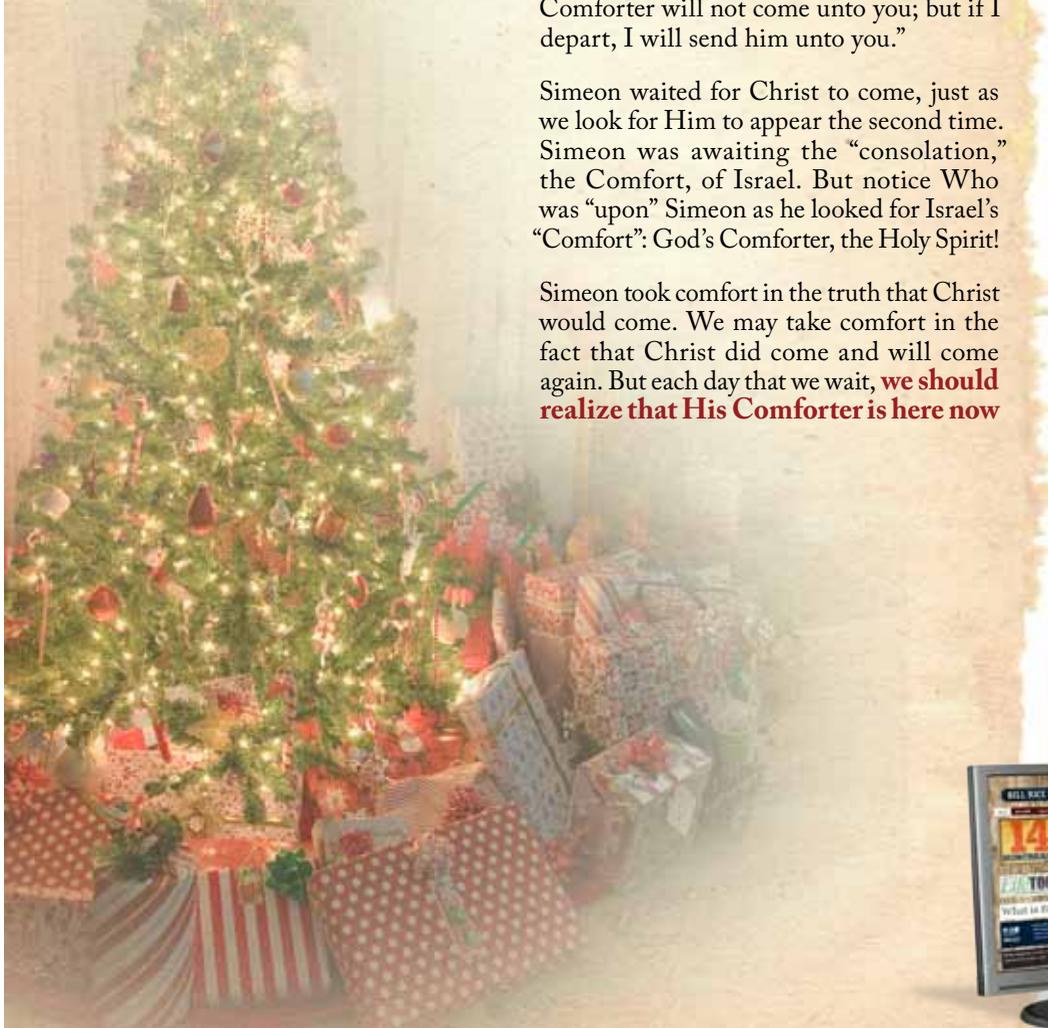
Galatians 4 reminds us that "when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son...." God worked while believers waited; and at the perfect time, God sent His Son.

But wait! Galatians then says, "And because ye are sons, **God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son** into your hearts...."

The Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, is called the Comforter. Jesus consoled His disciples before He left, saying, "If I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

Simeon waited for Christ to come, just as we look for Him to appear the second time. Simeon was awaiting the "consolation," the Comfort, of Israel. But notice Who was "upon" Simeon as he looked for Israel's "Comfort": God's Comforter, the Holy Spirit!

Simeon took comfort in the truth that Christ would come. We may take comfort in the fact that Christ did come and will come again. But each day that we wait, **we should realize that His Comforter is here now**



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





School Days

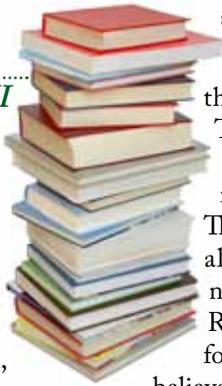
by Evangelist Bill Rice III

We are starting a school!

Since its beginning, the Bill Rice Ranch has been a strong supporter of Christian education. Twenty years ago we began an elementary school here primarily for the purpose of teaching and training the youngsters of staff members. Well, this year we have eighteen Ranch youngsters in our school, and we have sixty-nine youngsters from the community coming to the school as well. Bill Rice Christian Academy is growing unbelievably, and we are thankful for that.

We also have wonderful relationships with several Bible colleges and Christian colleges. Every year, we recruit students from these fine schools to work here on the Ranch in the summer. And literally thousands of young people who have come to the Bill Rice Ranch as campers have chosen one of these fine schools to further their education.

The school we will be starting here will be on the order of a one-year Bible institute. One of its purposes will be to encourage young people who are unsettled about the future to come here for a year and then further their education in a Christian college or Bible college elsewhere. The school will be for high school graduates and, in



some cases, college graduates.

My own personal burden for this school is to train evangelists. The Ranch has a rich heritage of evangelists, beginning with my father and my two uncles. The three sons of Bill Rice are all evangelists; and currently, nine evangelists work out of the Ranch. There is such a great need for evangelists in our day, and we believe we can help train young men for this special calling.

However, the school will be a help to any young person who simply wants to live for the Lord. While all of the teachers here love and understand the work of an evangelist and evangelism, they will teach the Bible to every student faithfully; and that will provide the groundwork for further education elsewhere.

I have often explained it this way. The Lord gave Mary and me three children. Wil is an evangelist; Wendy and Wren are both happily married, serving the Lord with their families. While neither Wendy nor Wren would be called an evangelist, both have a thorough understanding of revival, the evangelist, and the importance of giving the gospel and serving faithfully in their churches. So it may be that you have a daughter who would like to come to the Ranch. Obviously, she wouldn't have to be an evangelist or desire

to be one. However, her training here would stand her in good stead with an understanding of revival no matter where she chooses to serve.

So that's about it. We will start next September and go through November. There will be a break until February, and the school will continue through May. Then there will be a short break, and the school will finish in the three summer months. The cost will be just a little more than \$5,000; and if you are interested, let me encourage you to get in touch with us. As they say, space is limited.

We do not yet have an official name for the school. I suggested calling it Bill Rice III University, but my idea has not gotten much traction from Wil and the leaders here! Seriously, we are not sure what we will call it. It will probably have Dad's name in it someplace. No matter what we call it, it will be part of Bill Rice Ranch. And if I may humbly say this, I believe that means it will have a good name.

Needs at the Ranch

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 Matt Downs, 615-893-2767, ext. 105 or mtdowns@billriceranch.org

- **Pneumatic rock drill**
- **6 foot T-posts** (new or used, up to 50)
- **Five to seven Quarter-type horses 4-12 years old** (preferably well-trained)

BACK AT THE RANCH...

The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather and great attendance for our recent retreats: Ladies' Retreat, Men's Challenge, and our Conference on Marriage & the Home. Those that came enjoyed the perfect blend of warm fellowship, fun activities, and practical help from the Word of God.



Our Biggest Needs

If I were to boil down our biggest needs moving forward on the West Branch project to two things, they would have to be prayer and partners. To say this is to risk sounding trite or predictable, neither of which is intended. We truly need both.

The Bill Rice Ranch began camping ministry in Northern Arizona because the Lord kicked open the door. He made it happen. While there had been a long-standing interest in the Mountain West, it was the Lord who miraculously brought that original property our way. Now, twenty-five years later, we need the Lord to do more miracles. We are on the verge of having all the information needed to step forward into major construction. Along with this construction come major financial needs. This is where we need the Lord's miraculous intervention.



Ten separate building projects are waiting to be completed in this, our twenty-fifth anniversary year. The estimated cost for each project ranges from \$2,100 to \$300,000. We are nearly ready to install the sanitation, water, and fire protection systems. We also want to finish off the first aid building and the cabins that are close to completion.

The best part of moving forward is that the completion of these projects will hopefully enable us to begin official camps onsite in some form in 2015!

The need is great; that is why we need people to commit to praying with us about this. This is God's work, and only He can provide to accomplish it.

The need is also great because there are young people growing up right now in our western churches who could benefit from the camp's completion. The generation before them was helped in Flagstaff. Over eight hundred were saved. Thousands more made important spiritual

decisions. Many of the campers from the '90s and early 2000s are today living dedicated Christian lives. Some of their kids are ready to come to West Branch! We desire to have that influence available once again.

Along with prayer, we need a band of dedicated people willing to partner with us. Whether through labor on site in construction or through financial gifts, we need the help! Some might even help us appeal to people they know (that we do not) who would want to donate to this cause. Others, through their own personal or business resources, could donate significant funds or even construction supplies. Either way, these gifts will all add up.

I have no idea how the Lord will bring about all the funds we need to accomplish this project. But one thing I know, the help will come via prayer and partners. Could you be a part of that?

Visit www.westbranchAZ.org for more information on this project and how you can help.

Calendar OF EVENTS

SEASONAL RETREATS

- Day of Champions **April 5**
- Father & Son Adventure **May 16-17**

REGIONAL EVENTS

- Marriage & the Home Conference
Phoenix, AZ **February 7-8**
- Florida Youth Conference
Land O' Lakes, FL **February 8**
- Marriage & the Home Conference
Lubbock, TX **March 7-8**
- Men on the Move
Williams, AZ **March 21-22**
- Ladies' Spring Getaway
Flagstaff, AZ **April 26**

SUMMER CAMPS:

- Youth I / Ju ^{FULL} / Deaf I **June 8-13**
- Day Camp **June 16-20**
- Youth II / Junior II / Deaf II **June 22-27**
- Family I **June 30-July 4**
- Independence Day Retreat **July 4**
- Youth III / Junior III / Deaf III **July 6-11**
- Youth IV / Junior IV / Deaf IV **July 13-18**
- Youth V / Junior V / Deaf V **July 20-25**
- Family II / Deaf Adult Camp . **July 27-31**

WANTED

High School Juniors, Seniors, & Graduates

FOR SIXTY YEARS, GOD HAS USED MANY SERVANTS AT THE Bill Rice Ranch TO IMPACT OTHERS. Would YOU SURRENDER TO BE ONE OF THOSE SERVANTS



Ministry INTERNSHIP

is a two-week camp program committed to developing spiritual leaders for everyday ministry.

Session 1 July 6-18
Session 2 July 13-25
The total cost \$300

Week One:

FUN Sports tournaments, paintball, inflatables, rodeo, hike, putt-putt, horse rides, Cowboy Town, dodgeball tournament, sponge war, torpedo ball, foosball, swimming pool

INSTRUCTION

Teachers with years of ministry experience will clearly explain: Presenting the Gospel; Successful Counseling; The Importance of Preaching; Authority; Soulwinning; God's Will for Your Life; Why Attend Christian College; How to Lead Children's Church.

Week Two:

TEAMWORK Serve alongside other interns, counselors, pastors, youth pastors, evangelists, Ranch staff members, and operational staff.

CHALLENGE Be involved in your choice of one of our three camp programs (Junior, Youth, Deaf), help run games, assist in cabin leadership, see God working in your life and in the lives of those around you.



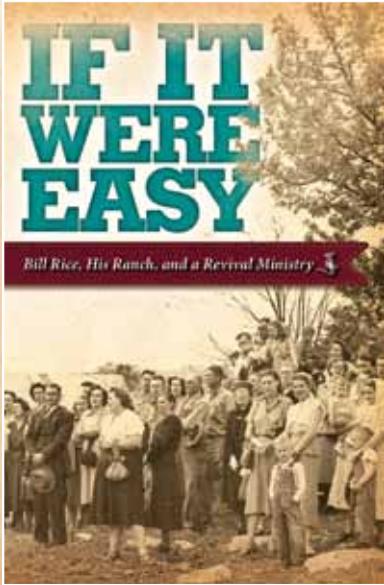
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Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS



What started with a burden to reach lost souls and a love for ranch life expanded into a ministry known for its emphases on strong families, Bible preaching, and local churches. Although thousands have seen their lives changed through the impact of this unique ministry, many have never heard the whole story of how it came to be. But now, this heart-warming account of Bill Rice's life, his daughter's deafness, the founding of the first-ever Christian camp for deaf young people, and the growth of a revival ministry, will instill within you a greater appreciation for the ministry of the Bill Rice Ranch. It will both inspire and challenge you to trust God even more with your own family and ministry!
136 pages, paperback **\$7.00**

NOTE: Price DOES NOT include shipping & handling.
For orders, call **1-800-253-RICE, ext.117**
or visit our website **www.billriceranch.org**



Also available for the
amazonkindle

BILL RICE RANCH
DAY OF CHAMPIONS
MURFREESBORO, TN

★ **APRIL 5** ★

Speaker:
Evangelist Matt Downs

Cost: \$25
breakfast & lunch included

3 on 3 Basketball,
Coed Volleyball, Ping Pong,
Putt-putt Golf, Torpedo Ball,
and **More!**

An all-day teen activity your youth group
will not want to miss!

**FATHER & SON
ADVENTURE**

A weekend that can make a difference!

MAY 16-17

Speaker: Evangelist Wil Rice IV

*Ideal opportunity for fathers and sons
to spend time together and grow closer
in a spiritual atmosphere!*

**FAMILY
CAMP**

WEEK I
June 30-July 4
(Jeff Amsbaugh & Don Strange)

WEEK II
July 28-31
(Aaron Denson & Mike Edwards)

**The Perfect
Family Vacation!**

Make your plans now—register today!

1-800-253-RICE • registration@billriceranch.org • www.billriceranch.org
627 Bill Rice Ranch Road, Murfreesboro, TN 37128-4555