

Branding Iron

BILL RICE RANCH MURFREESBORO, TN



From the President

The Most Exciting Town on the Planet

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

Decatur, Texas, has always been a nearly mythical place in my mind. This is the town west of Fort Worth where my granddad grew up. All my life I have heard stories of Decatur and the surrounding area: stories of cowboys, ranches, broncos, cattle drives, and a stretch of prairie my granddad nearly burned down by accident as a kid.

So when our travels took us right through Decatur on our way to Arizona, we spent a day researching family history. We were excited! And we were thrilled to see some of those stories come to life before our very eyes as we toured the town.

In the little square that serves as the county seat, we saw a lawman wearing boots, Wranglers, and a Stetson stroll across the street with a star on his chest and a pistol on his hip. We took pictures of the grand old mansion on the hill at the end of Main Street that once served as the headquarters of the massive Waggoner Ranch. A poster on the window of Biggar Custom Hats announced that a rodeo was in town. I imagined what this place must have been like eighty years ago as I considered how it shaped who I am today.

But when I asked Elie at the front desk of our motel what there was to see in the area, she shrugged and said, “Not much happens around here.” Not much happens? Are you kidding me?

For a moment, I was stunned. Why, this was the most adventure-prone place on the planet! This was the setting for some of the most compelling stories I had ever heard! Didn’t she know that she was blessed to live in one of the most exciting towns in the West? No. Not really.

I was a little disappointed that someone who actually lived in this amazing place couldn’t see its value and didn’t know enough to sell a stranger on it. I know that must sound silly; but it just seemed wrong that anyone, especially a native, would minimize the stature of the place.

But then I thought about the disconnect. It was as much about me as it was about her.

It got me wondering how Bill Rice could have had so many adventures in such a “boring” town! And then I thought about the ranch he called home for the last twenty-seven years of his life, the Bill Rice Ranch. He found adventure there, as well.

If you look at a topographical map of our area, we are the only ones with a “mountain.” Every other rise in elevation in the area is called a hill or a knob. And we call the little notch in Scales Mountain allowing access to the pasture beyond a “pass.” The closest pass to ours is found in the Rocky Mountains! You see, when my granddad looked at the Ranch, he saw more than just another 1,300 acres in Middle Tennessee; he saw opportunity. He saw a story in the making.

What am I saying? I am saying that life is less about what you see and more about how you see it. Now, to be sure, my grandfather really did have more than his share of adventure in West Texas, in the Congo, in Chicago, and on the ranch that bears his name. He certainly “got a lot of living out of life.” And I believe that adventure found him because he was looking for it.

When he and his family were living in a two-room, cinder block cabin without running water in the early days of the Ranch, he would exclaim, “Kids, isn’t this great? We’re living like Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett!” I have heard my dad say, “We were dumb enough to believe him!”

But the family believed in his vision and caught his passion. “Talldaddy” enjoyed life because he chose to. He dreamed in color and attempted big things.

Make no mistake about it, life is more than where you live or what happens to you. Life is largely what you make of it. Why not see God’s hand in what you have been given and seek God’s leading in what to make of it?



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“Life is LESS about what you see and MORE about how you see it.”



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





Children, Parents, and a Church

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Mary and I have known Sarah for many years. She attends our home church and was a secretary on staff there for some time. Sarah was single with a desire to be married, but she had no desperation about it. I used to tease her about a husband.

"I'd be happy to announce that you are available whenever I preach in churches around the country," I said to her more than once.

"Thanks, but I'm all right!" she would often reply.

Well, Sarah found her man. Or maybe it would be better to say that Andy found Sarah. He was industrious like Sarah and friendly like Sarah. I can't really say he was as good looking as Sarah, but he had a rugged, nice-looking appearance; and the two of them made a sharp couple!

They wanted children, but it seemed as if the Lord didn't want to give them any; so they prayed. Others did, as well. Finally after some time, they felt that they would not have children born into the family, so they decided to adopt. The decision paired them with a birth mother that chose them to adopt her child. You can imagine how surprised everyone was when Sarah

took the birth mother to see the doctor for a sonogram and found out that the birth mother was having triplets!



After surviving the initial shock, both Andy and Sarah were thrilled and thankful. They had asked the Lord for a child, and He had seen fit to give them three. Joel, Hannah, and Elizabeth came into this world without incident, and they were

beautiful. The three had to stay in the hospital for a while because of their premature birth, but they did well.

The triplets were still in the neonatal unit of the hospital when Sarah found out she was pregnant! A couple of months later, Sarah went to the doctor to have a sonogram so that she and Andy would know the gender of their baby. Are you ready for this? She was pregnant with twins!

When Abigail and Andrew were born, they already had three siblings, two wonderful parents, and an excited and helpful church family. The church set out to be a blessing to Andy and Sarah, and they certainly were. They prepared meals, sent babysitters, changed diapers—there are over three hundred a week—and supported this new family in ways too numerous to mention here. I have three brief observations.

First, God answers prayer. Does He ever!

Second, God loves His children, represented in this story by Andy and Sarah.

And third, nothing takes the place of a church family. The Andy Justice family is loved, appreciated, and cared for by others in their church.

Pray with confidence. Thank the Lord that He loves you. And be in a good church. You can be a help, and you will receive help. When you are God's child, His family will be a blessing to yours.

BACK AT THE RANCH...

BILL RICE RANCH



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)

We are thankful for the many men from our local area who participated in the Ranch **↑ Work Day** on March 29. Several necessary **projects were completed** in preparation for our summer season.

As our first youth event of the year, the **Day of Champions** was blessed with beautiful weather, over **270** in attendance, **3 people saved**, and many decisions made for Christ.



We are pleased to announce the opening of Bill Rice Bible Institute.

This one-year training program, designed for high school graduates ages 18-25, is intended to provide a bridge to college. Courses will cover Bible surveys, Bible doctrines, ministry philosophy, and a variety of practical ministry and Christian living studies. Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2014.

For information about Bill Rice Bible Institute, please call (800) 253-7423, ext. 112 or email brbi@billriceranch.org.

Clarity Integrity Service

Facilitating

During a recent meeting for the West Branch development, my pastor made an interesting statement. He said that he always has in his mind the idea of being a facilitator. In reference to this particular meeting, he said he often thought about how to get other people involved with the development of West Branch. That he certainly has done!

On at least a couple of occasions, he encouraged other people to make significant investments of time and resources into our ministry. We really appreciate that! Our pastor may feel limited in making a major contribution on his own; but by getting others involved, he magnifies the help he can provide.

One of those men he got involved turned around and got others involved. He challenged several business associates to donate funds to our development needs. Several responded, and a significant amount of cash was raised for building. Our friend facilitated the help from people we have never met. And my pastor

facilitated our friend's help in the first place!

Facilitation is a good thing. It is all about connecting those with needs to those who can help provide for the needs. It is quite biblical, actually.

In Luke 11, Jesus tells about a man who arrives hungry and late at night to his friend's house. The friend has the desire to help but lacks the resources needed. The friend goes to his neighbor to get help, knowing that his neighbor has



Native American girls at a previous camp week

the means to provide. This story illustrates how we help people with their greatest need—salvation from sin. We want to help; but, on our own, we do not have the ability to provide salvation. However, we can lead our friends to the Lord Jesus Christ. He has every ability to

meet that need! We *facilitate* the provision by leading our friends to Jesus.

Facilitation is a great way to see God's work accomplished too. We do not minister on a Native American reservation, but we can facilitate a Christian camp where missionaries can bring

boys and girls to hear about the Savior. You may never meet the missionary, but perhaps you could volunteer labor on the new campsite. You may never visit Arizona, but perhaps you could contribute the materials or money needed for the laborers to build. Maybe you feel your contribution is limited, but maybe you know someone else who could make an additional contribution in some way.

Really, this type of facilitation is just an expansion of the Lord's story in Luke. Our goal of building a camp in Arizona is only a stepping stone to our goal of helping the pastors and churches of the West reach their neighbors for Christ. We pray that the Lord will lay upon your heart to help facilitate this goal.

For more information on current needs and our goal for camp in 2015, please visit the "Development" page at www.westbranchAZ.org.

Calendar OF EVENTS

SPRING RETREAT

Father & Son Adventure..... **May 16-17**

SUMMER CAMPS:

Youth I / Junior I / 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**

Deaf Adult Retreat..... **July 31**

FALL RETREATS

Elementary Retreat 1..... **Aug. 21-22**

Elementary Retreat 2..... **Sept. 5-6**

Junior High Retreat..... **Sept. 15-17**

Ladies' Retreat..... **Oct. 9-11**

Men's Challenge..... **Nov. 6-8**

Conference on Marriage & the Home..... **Dec. 4-6**

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 7**, 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



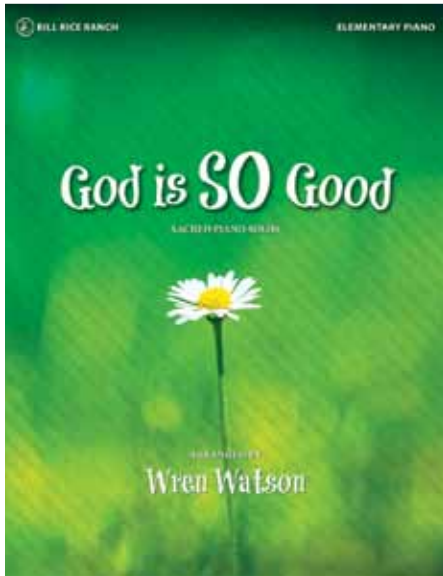
Everyone sending a **gift marked "FAITH PROJECT"** will receive a **personal note from a summer staff member** you are supporting, sharing how God has used them and worked in their lives this summer.



Bill Rice Ranch, Inc.
627 Bill Rice Ranch Road
Murfreesboro, TN 37128-4555

Return Service Requested

Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS



A new piano book for elementary level pianists, *God Is So Good* is a collection of twelve songs that are both familiar hymns and favorite songs from the Bill Rice Ranch summer camps. **\$10**

- God Is So Good
- Great Is Our Lord
- Ephesians 6:1
- If Sinners Entice Thee
- Junior Week Song
- I Surrender All
- Rock of Ages
- Rejoice in the Lord Always
- Be Strong in the Lord
- There Shall Be Showers of Blessing
- A Shelter in the Time of Storm
- When I Survey

NOTE: Price DOES NOT include shipping & handling.

For orders, call **1-800-253-RICE, ext.117**

or visit our website **www.billriceranch.org**

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!



LADIES' RETREAT

Harvest of BLESSINGS




Guest Speaker:
Kathy Jackson
Pastor's Wife

Host Speakers:
Mary Rice,
Wil & Sena Rice

October 9-11 Cost: \$90

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

MEN'S CHALLENGE




NOVEMBER 6-8 COST: \$80

SOLID PREACHING • GREAT FOOD • UPLIFTING FELLOWSHIP

2nd Annual
**TARGET
CHALLENGE** Target shooting contest—prizes will be awarded!

Make your plans now—register today!

1-800-253-RICE • registration@billriceranch.org • www.billriceranch.org

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