



From the President

The Meadow

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

It seems as if most big ideas do not come to us until we feel as if we are out of options. A couple years ago some of us were tooling around the campground on a golf cart looking for possible locations for an upcoming project. As big as the Ranch is, there is not as much space as one might think. Middle Tennessee is notorious for having a mile of rock covered by an inch of dirt. Clay, to be exact. This is a challenge for building contractors.

I went back to my office from the exploration empty-handed. Five minutes later, I had my answer! It appeared as I studied the satellite picture of the Ranch on Google Earth. The space I had looked right through a half hour earlier now nearly jumped out at me! It was the largest usable space right in the heart of the campground. Maybe I should say, "It splashed out at me."

The perfect location? Lake Lockwood. But it just so happened to be covered with water! It is amazing what a simple change of perspective can reveal! The mission was on.

Lake Lockwood is (was), I suppose, really more of a pond than a lake, though such a designation seems to minimize the central spot this landmark has occupied on the Ranch. Actually, we have quite a collection of stock ponds, all of which service our large string of Ranch horses.

In the early days, my grandfather dug out the modest tank he called "Lockwood" so it could serve as our original swimming hole. Before it became the swimming hole, it quenched the thirst of goats, cows, and, of course, horses. In the '70s it was the course for our "Counselor Boat Race," part bumper boats and part Indy 500-cum-stock pond. Paddle Pete was the boat race clown who would preside over the "race" from his inner tube at mid-lake, where he prac-

ticed the bad habit of upsetting the boats and soaking their occupants.

We thought long and hard about draining the Lake. In fact, with all the agencies who now have jurisdiction in such matters, we weren't the only ones thinking about it! While you probably know only a couple people more sentimental than I am, the one thing we cherish more than our rich past on the Ranch is the opportunities to follow God's lead into the future. We pulled the plug, and work has begun on a gorgeous new park called "The Meadow."

The Meadow will grace the terrain between the Dining Hall and the ball fields, providing a large, centrally-located park for a variety of camp activities. More importantly, it is a large space that opens up a number of options for future needs, ranging from a new swimming pool to a new building. In the middle of these immediate and long range plans is the step this will take in the overall improvement plan for the campground's core area.

While there is much work still to do before the Lockwood bed becomes the verdant Meadow, God has already provided in an obvious way in this significant project. We didn't just need to move massive amounts of dirt around; we needed someone who had the know-how to sculpt the Meadow. The Lord worked in the heart of a professional "earth sculptor" who rented the mammoth machine required and applied the needed skill to begin the creation. This friend's generosity and hard work have gotten us off to a strong start which we couldn't have had without him.

These events have reminded me that we usually have more options than we think we do, and God has more provision than we know He has. Sometimes the possible is invisible until one drains the water from his imagination.



Artist's concept of "The Meadow" scheduled for Summer 2015.



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by Evangelist Bill Rice III

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Summer Photos

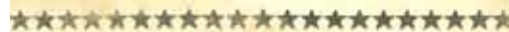
From West Branch

Who Would Be the First?

by Evangelist Troy Carlson



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



Jesus
Hebrews One:Five-Eight
IS ENOUGH.



The \$40,000 Gain/Loss

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

I was walking up to the John R. Rice Auditorium from the Dining Hall when I met a pastor and his wife who had been bringing young people here to the Ranch for several years. We chatted for a few moments, and they told me about their son who had worked at the Ranch as a teenager in the Ranch Hand program. When I asked how their son was doing, they told me he had just graduated from a Christian college. And then they told me a wonderful story.

Their son had graduated from high school and earned a \$40,000 scholarship to a state college. While they shared their son's desire to be in a Christian Bible college, all three felt like the Lord had provided through this scholarship for him to go to a state school.

However, at the Ranch, he heard preacher after preacher talk about the importance of taking your training under people who love the Lord and honor the Bible. At the Ranch as a teenage Ranch Hand, he made the decision to give up his \$40,000 scholarship and go to a Christian college! You will never know the thrill in my heart as those parents told me, "Our son just graduated from a Christian college and is now making preparations to go to medical school."

Bible authority, persuasion, and teaching dominate the preaching here at the Ranch. For many years we have encouraged young people who plan to continue their education beyond high school to go to a Christian college or Bible school. Now in just a few days we will be beginning Bill Rice Bible Institute here on the Ranch. BRBI will



provide a one-year practical Bible course to high school graduates who may not be certain as to which direction the Lord would have them go after high school. Most, we believe, will go on to Bible college after their year here. Others may take the Bible teaching and the practical life tools they will have learned here at the Ranch and go back home to get a job and serve in their home church.

While we expect the majority of students at the school here to be high school graduates, I actually think we will have some college graduates

come here after college just to get practical Bible training. I think this may be especially true for young men who major in Bible in a fine school but want to go into evangelism. What a wonderful place this would be to learn about and begin such a ministry!

BRBI will be training young people for life with Bible principles that have dominated preaching and teaching at the Ranch for the past sixty years. These would include: soulwinning and revival, recognizing the need and work of the evangelist, applying Biblical thinking, working with other believers in a vibrant New Testament Baptist church, and understanding the home and the authority structure found therein. The school will build a bridge for young people to take the next step to either further their education or serve where the Lord leads. Bill Rice Bible Institute will help young people—some who are high school grads and some who are college grads—to continue their quest to prepare for the future and to serve the Lord.

Pray for us. If you know of a young person who you believe would benefit from schooling here on the Ranch, we would like to get in touch with them.

The Ranch has been a beacon of light for young people and the adults who love them for over sixty years. Bill Rice Bible Institute will strengthen that beacon of help.

BACK AT THE 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)

What a great summer! We thank the Lord for the 145 campers who trusted Christ for salvation and for over 2,000 decisions that were made this summer.

Who Would Be the First?

We had been wondering what his or her name would be. Weeks of intense preparation had followed years of planning, praying, and waiting. All of our effort would lead to the first camp with the first campers and, prayerfully, the first young person to be saved in this new location.

Four Arizona churches traveled to Williams on July 7 to be part of this first camp on our new facility. The rain that arrived with the campers could not drench the enthusiasm for this historic week. In fact, one camper was two hours early (which is pretty significant when you only live ninety miles away)! One former Bill Rice Ranch staff member joined our small full-time staff of two families to lead the

week. Each church involved also contributed workers to be camp counselors, kitchen staff, activity staff, and more. It was a great week!



The irony of such an historic first week is that it began only two days after our 25th Anniversary Reunion of former summer staff and friends. About 125 friends joined us from years gone by. It was great to see so many former counselors and workers. A number of friends who had attended camp in Flagstaff at some time from 1989-2004 also joined us for the day.

It was especially a blessing to have Evangelist Bill Rice III, Evangelist Morris Gleiser, and Missionary Harry Lippert here to be part of the day. Bill Rice III was the one God

used to begin West Branch. Morris Gleiser was the first director (1989-1993), and Harry Lippert was the one who rebuilt much of the Flagstaff property and most of the current Williams property. A great spirit of thankfulness for what God had done as well as strong enthusiasm for the future pervaded the day.

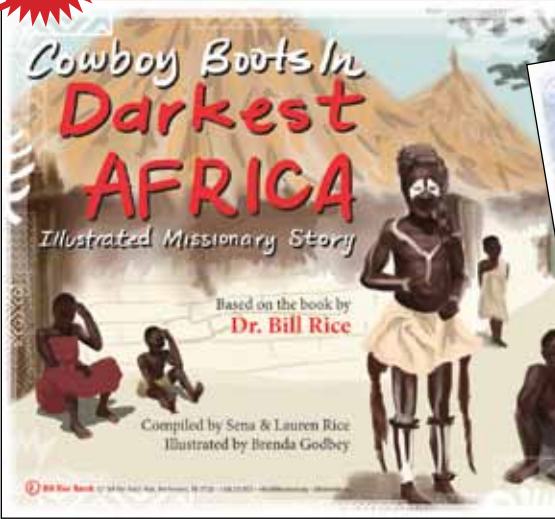
There is still much to accomplish to have West Branch fully operational for full-sized camps. Our focus now is on infrastructure including water, sanitation, and fire protection. We are currently asking area plumbers to quote the installation of the sanitation. However, though limited on size for now, we have taken the first steps to establish camping on the new site. As the Lord continues to provide through friends like you, we will keep pushing to link our blessed past to our hopeful future.

And by the way, her name is Kiki. She was saved on Tuesday night, July 8. So was Nano. Quito was saved the next day. When I texted several friends in Tennessee to let them know the news, Dr. Bill's reply said it all, "The first, we trust, of many."

Visit www.westbranchAZ.org for the latest information on our campsite development.

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Calendar

OF EVENTS

EVENTS HERE AT THE RANCH

- Elementary Retreat 2..... **Sept. 5-6**
- Junior High Retreat **Sept. 15-17**
- Ladies' Retreat **Oct. 9-11**
- Men's Challenge **Nov. 6-8**
- Conf. on Marriage & the Home **Dec. 4-6**

REGIONAL EVENTS

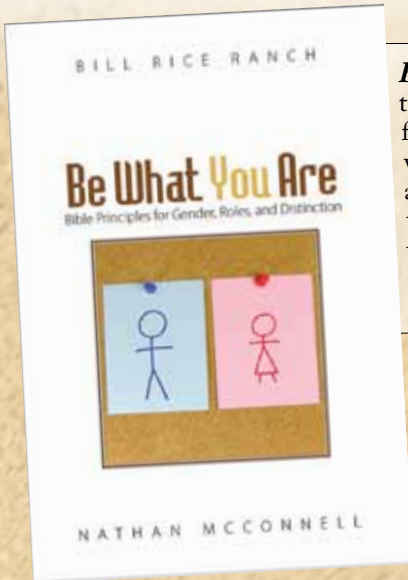
- Youth Conference
Peoria, AZ **Sept. 27**
- Marriage & Home Conf.
Gallup, NM **Oct. 10-11**
- Men on the Move
Fort Collins, CO **Oct 17-18**



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Pastor's Wife

Host Speakers:
Mary Rice,
Wil & Sena Rice

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- ♥ Encouraging Fellowship
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- ♥ Country Craft Fair

CONFERENCE on Marriage & the Home

December 4–6

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Cost: \$200 per couple (includes meals & lodging)

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:
Evangelist Bill Rice III
Evangelist Wil Rice IV



MEN'S CHALLENGE




Ron Reilly,
Evangelist

NOVEMBER 6–8 COST: \$80

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