



*From the President*

## What Will Stick in Your Attic?

*by Evangelist Wil Rice IV*

There is one room in my house that I enter about once or twice a season. I go there before Christmas and just after the new year. I carry boxes down from its confines in May and return them when the weather cools. Where else would I put all of our summer clothes and winter decor if I didn't have an attic? There isn't enough room in my junk drawer!

An attic is sometimes the first "museum" a child remembers visiting. It is a wonderland of the old, the distant, and the possible. Old photos recall a long-distant past; old clothes suggest a new role for a child seeking adventure.

But what happens when we do more than change decorations or shift seasons? What if we change homes? What happens when we move out and take our boxes, books, letters, and sweaters with us?

I will tell you what happens. Something sticks! Hiding under a stack, pillowed on Pink Panther insulation, or lying beneath a dim lightbulb, some piece of our life as it was stays behind.

Every once in a while, as I am shuffling boxes or searching for seasonal decor, a scrap will catch my attention and pull me into another place and time. Over the past several years, I have found a fading postcard, the menu to a Valentine's banquet in the '70s, and sermon notes from the sermon of a preacher who is probably in heaven now.

The other year, I found a scrap from a forty-year-old newspaper ad, reminding me of how different the products and prices would have been for the previous residents of my house. I could imagine the wife driving the family station wagon to a

much smaller Murfreesboro, a few miles further away than the city that has been growing our way ever since. I could picture a grocery store that sold only groceries and sent them out the door in paper sacks. I could almost imagine a store that had no video screens and only the sounds of grocery carts and neighbors catching up on the latest news.



What will stick in your attic when you have moved out? What will stay when everything else is cleared away? What will your kids remember of these years? What will stick with your memory when most of your memory fades?

What dominates your mind today, and what will stick long after tomorrow?

Years ago, my dad spent time with an elderly evangelist who was near to his entrance into heaven but could not recall much about what was going on around him on earth. He did, however, remember the work of giving the Gospel and was insistent that he needed to leave his hospital room to catch a train for the next revival meeting, even though there was no meeting scheduled. His calling was firmly planted in his mind even when so much else had receded.

Regardless of your age, history, or prospects, you are here because God has a plan for you! Even now, the decisions you make today will determine the memories you gather tomorrow. And the driving priorities of our lives today will stick with us into the farthest future, much like remnants in an attic.

A new year is ahead! As one sage has said, "Every morning is a fresh start to a wise man." Let's spend our best time on what really matters. Let's invest in people. Let's do the things that we want to stick, the things worth remembering.



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*by Evangelist Troy Carlson*

*“Even now, the decisions you make TODAY will determine the memories you gather TOMORROW!”*



Visit [billriceranch.org](http://billriceranch.org) for photos, videos, registration forms, and exciting opportunities!



# A Reason for Christmas

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Christmas! It is always hard to wait for it to arrive. Being with family, opening presents, seeing friends, and living traditions make it a great time of year. Some people—well meaning, I'm sure—wonder if we should even celebrate the 25th of December. "It is too commercial," they say. Or, "We don't really know the date Christ was born." Both objections are true, but neither gives sufficient reason to pass the holiday by. I don't have to know the date of our Lord's birth to remember the fact of it. And I don't have to buy into the commercialism to enjoy the day, pun intended! Christmas is a time when we give on purpose, and that is a very good thing.

Think about it. What do you love about Christmas? Would it be going to the mall? Probably not. Would it be Chestnuts roasting on an open fire? Chances are good that you have never seen that. How about enjoying the snow? If you live in Upstate New York, you may be tired of it; and if you live in south Florida, you may never have been in it.

Okay, so if you love Christmas, what is it you love doing in association with the holiday? Opening those presents? Ah yes, the joy of opening the box with a present in it just for you. Is that what stirs

your anticipation for this day?

Do you know what drives the joy and excitement God's people have for Christmas? Well, first let me ask your age. Since you are reading this, you probably are not in elementary school. And the law of averages would say you are not in your nineties. No, you are more than likely an older teenager or an adult. Okay, so who gets all giddy about opening presents? Kids, isn't that right? Sure you enjoy presents, but do you want to get up and go into the living room to see the tree at 4:30 in the morning? Somewhere in your history you doubtless outgrew that. Now do not misunderstand, I'm sure you like gifts, but is receiving gifts the "big deal" to you about Christmas? I doubt it. More than likely you outgrew that a few years ago.

What then is the constant activity in Christmas that never grows old? If I may leave the questions for a moment, I'd like to tell you why I have never been a fan of Santa. Nevermind the fact that he doesn't exist. I knew that when I first learned how to say "red nosed reindeer." No, the problem



with the "jolly old fellow" is that he gets to give instead of us. Why would any thinking person want that? Take away an opportunity to receive gifts at Christmas, and you have stolen nothing from me that would bring joy. However, if you take away my opportunity to give, well you are stealing Christmas, Mr. Grinch!

When I was a kid, Mother said to me and my three siblings that she wanted to have a special Christmas for Dad. With her enthusiastic leadership, we four kids gladly followed along. We all focused on getting Dad presents. I'll never forget that Christmas morning when Mother, Betty, Kaye, Pete, and I all watched Dad open gift after gift. I received presents that day too, but I don't remember anything about them. Years later, as an adult, I was remembering the Christmas days of my youth. The one that stood out—in fact, the only one I could remember distinctly—was not a Christmas when I received a special gift. It was one, when as a child, I had a part in giving gifts.

In Acts, we are told that Jesus said, "...it is more blessed to give than to receive."

So Jesus Christ is *the* reason for Christmas; and He has taught us that giving, not receiving, brings us real joy. That we celebrate Christ's birth on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December is *the* reason for Christmas. Being reminded of the joy of giving on that day is certainly *a* wonderful reason for Christmas.

## 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 [mdowns@billriceranch.org](mailto:mdowns@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)

Over the last few months, **the Lord blessed us with a wonderful retreat season.** Hundreds of campers attended our school retreats, Ladies' Retreat, Men's Challenge, and Conference on Marriage & the Home. Those that came enjoyed a perfect blend of warm fellowship, fun activities, and practical help from the Word of God. We're so thankful for the many important decisions that were made for Christ during this time!

## Many Hands, Many Prayers

“Many hands make light work.” Many prayers make God’s work! That’s probably not the perfect way to say it, but I trust it communicates the truths we have seen demonstrated at West Branch lately.

Second, we know that people like you are praying for us. That means a great deal to us! Seeing this campground established requires God to do what only He can do. While we have literal mountains surrounding us, we have many figurative



First, we are grateful for the many people who have responded to our appeal for funds to install the sanitation system. At this writing, we have raised nearly \$30,000 for that work. That is a significant start! This has been accomplished because many people have contributed what they could. We have also been blessed to have several volunteers this fall. It is quite a boost to see so much progress in such a short period of time.

mountains before us also. Please continue to pray that God will provide direction for the next steps of development, as well as the people and the finances to take those steps. Specifically, please pray with us about the sanitation work. While we have been raising funds for the \$275,000 project, God seems to be opening the door to lower the cost! Please pray that we can meet somewhere in the middle.

Recently the Lord put on my heart to pray that we could double the gifts toward the sanitation project from \$30,000 to \$60,000 before the end of the year. If God lays on your heart to contribute toward this goal, we trust that you will.

The Lord has truly blessed us in 2014. We have had more people attend West Branch events this year than any in the past ten. We have now held over sixty events on the road. And, most significantly, we have had camps on the Williams site...with young people saved! We are praying for more of the same in 2015 along with more hands and more prayers to see the work accomplished.

Visit [www.westbranchAZ.org](http://www.westbranchAZ.org) for the latest information on our campsite development.

# Calendar OF EVENTS

## SEASONAL RETREATS

- Day of Champions . . . . . **April 25**
- Father & Son Adventure . . . . . **May 15-16**

## REGIONAL EVENTS

- Marriage and the Home Conference  
*Phoenix, AZ* . . . . . **February 6-7**
- Florida Youth Conference  
*Land O' Lakes, FL* . . . . . **February 7**
- Marriage and the Home Conference  
*Riverview, FL* . . . . . **February 20-21**
- Marriage and the Home Conference  
*Lubbock, TX* . . . . . **March 6-7**
- Men on the Move  
*Williams, AZ* . . . . . **March 20-21**
- Ladies' Spring Getaway  
*Flagstaff, AZ* . . . . . **April 25**

## SUMMER CAMPS:

- Youth I /Junior I/ Deaf I . . . . . **June 7-12**
- Day Camp . . . . . **June 15-19**
- Youth II /Junior II/ Deaf II . . . . . **June 21-26**
- Family I . . . . . **June 29-July 3**
- Independence Day Retreat . . . . . **July 3**
- Youth III /Junior III/ Deaf III . . . . . **July 5-10**
- Youth IV /Junior IV/ Deaf IV . . . . . **July 12-17**
- Youth V /Junior **FULL** / Deaf V . . . . . **July 19-24**
- Family II / Deaf Adult Camp . . . . . **July 26-30**

# WANTED

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*High School Juniors, Seniors, & Graduates*  
(Ages 16–20)

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Session 1 July 5-17  
Session 2 July 12-24  
The total cost \$300

**Week One:**

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**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.



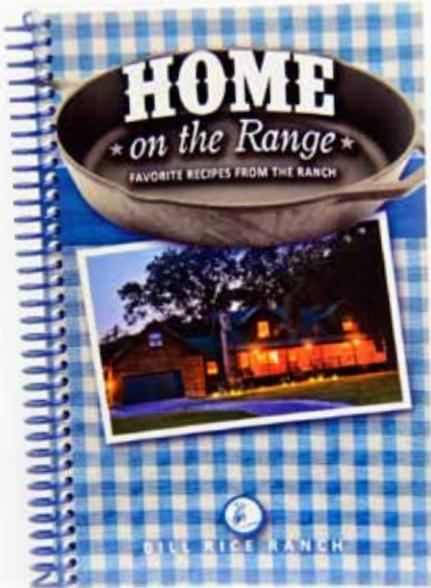
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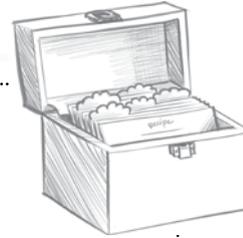


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BILL RICE RANCH

# DAY OF CHAMPIONS

MURFREESBORO, TN

## ★ APRIL 25 ★

Speaker:  
**Evangelist Matt Downs**

**Cost: \$25**  
breakfast & lunch included

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Putt-putt Golf, Torpedo Ball,  
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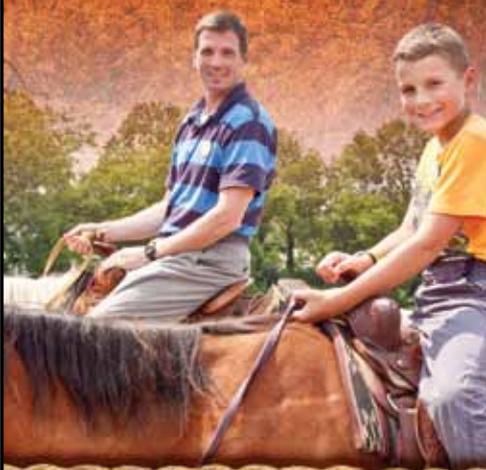
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# FAMILY CAMP

WEEK I

**June 29–July 3**  
*(Dave Hardy & Wayne Hardy)*

WEEK II

**July 26-30**  
*(John Van Gelderen & Jim Cook)*



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FAMILY VACATION!*

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