



Back at the Ranch

627 Bill Rice Ranch Road • Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37128-4555 • 615-893-2767



January 2008

Dear Friend,

“What’s new at the Ranch?” This is a question I often hear, and the answer is, “A lot!” First of all, we plan to complete the first phase of the **entrance renovation** this spring, replacing the well-worn fence along Highway 96. This is the first impression people have of the Ranch and the only thing thousands of travelers ever see.

Another spring project in the works is the Joe B. Rice Administration Building, which has been in much need of **new carpet on the inside and new paint on the outside**. The building still sports the original carpet and paint from thirty years ago! This spring we plan to complete the first half of the building’s renovation by replacing the old carpet.

A third project will be a **roof for the volleyball court**. This will be the most recent step in the Rec Center area renovation, and will complete the work begun in 2004.

Thinking about the work of this coming spring reminds me of Nehemiah’s burden to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. When the king asked Nehemiah, “For what dost thou make request?” he was expressing more than casual interest. He was not merely asking, “What’s new?” but rather, “*How can I help?*” And Nehemiah was ready with an answer.

“**So I prayed to the God of heaven**. And I said unto the king....” In other words, Nehemiah prepared and Nehemiah prayed. He knew exactly what and who he would need to finish his task, but he asked the Lord for help before he said a word to the king. When the king made his inquiry, Nehemiah recognized the **king’s question as God’s answer**.

Every project I have mentioned here is **the result of God’s provision through people**. Recently, a friend asked, “What projects need to be completed at the Ranch?” Of course, God already knew the answer to that question. We are thankful for friends like you who want to know “what is new” and for those who ask, “How can I help?”

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“....for the people had a **mind to work.**”

Nehemiah 4:6

The **Building Fund** is one way people can help when God so leads. The Lord willing, we plan to begin the first steps on the entrance and Administration Building renovation this spring and complete them when God provides. And we are confident that He will!

The **Campership Fund** is a way for people to help send a young person to camp. Just before Christmas, a neighbor gave a sizeable amount to be used wherever needed. But he specifically had interest in making it possible for kids to come to camp who would not otherwise come. As you know, deaf young people come to camp free of charge.

And any undesignated gift will go to the **Mission Fund**, our most important need. This fund helps the Ranch to salary the people who give their lives to the work of this ministry. We are grateful to God for a gifted and dedicated staff and for the people that God has used to provide for them.

The answer to, “*What is new at the Ranch?*” depends on two things: **vision** and **provision**. We thank God for the vision he has given the Bill Rice Ranch to reach people with the Gospel and to encourage good churches in the same. This unchanging vision is the catalyst behind every new project.

And we are likewise thankful to God for His provision for us over these years. As often as not, the Lord has provided for needs through friends like you. Would you join us in asking God to provide what we need for the completion of the projects we will start this spring? And would you prayerfully consider helping if God should so lead? By God’s grace, “the LORD’s mercies... are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wil Rice IV". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a distinct "IV" at the end.

Wil Rice IV,
President
Bill Rice Ranch, Inc.