



West Branch Trailblazer

Keeping in Touch, Seeking Your Prayer and Involvement

West Branch is a ministry of the Bill Rice Ranch

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Prayer Requests

Completing Phase One for Occupancy of the Rasmussen Crossing

Effective Fall Ministry both at West Branch and in churches

Summer Staff Recruiting

Project Status

Rasmussen Crossing-

Working to fulfill requirements for occupancy of Phase 1: fire suppression system hooked up and operational, dry wall hung throughout much of the building

Upcoming Events:

- 9.11 Arizona Regional Youth Conference
- 9.17-18 Ladies & Girls' Night in the Pines
- 10.8-9 Men & Boys' Camp Out
- 10.15-16 Church Family Retreat

Visit westbranchAZ.org for more details.

Spring and Summer Ministry

What a blessing it has been to have West Branch full and sometimes overflowing throughout 2021 so far! We have had consistent ministry opportunities from March through August including our five weeks of summer camp plus eight additional retreats on site. Our largest event so far this year was our first teen camp during which we had campers from Arizona and California come and make many decisions for the Lord.

Other larger events included our Junior Camp, second teen camp, a new Youth Retreat in April, and our annual Men on the Move Conference in March. We were able to occupy our new Rasmussen Crossing as an auditorium during the men's conference. This was the first time we had held this entire event on our property after having rented facilities in Williams for more than the past ten years. What a blessing it was to get a glimpse of future possibilities in this new building still being developed!

In spring we also hosted four different Christian high school groups (WI, IL, FL, MI) for their senior trips. These smaller retreats gave us the opportunity to invest in young people at a pivotal point in time during a trip they will always remember! Then, just before summer camp began, we had our Ladies Summer Getaway with Debbie Morris of Marana, AZ, and Katie Stevenson, of Urbana, OH, speaking for us.



Summer Staff 2021

Junior Campers listening to an illustrated Bible message

Space is short to write of all that happened during each of these events plus our Family Camp and Deaf Camp, but suffice it to say that the Lord allowed us to see young people saved this summer in addition to many, many other decisions for Christ. We had new churches attend and other friends return. Our summer staff were a blessing, and our campers enjoyed new features at camp such as an escape room and a crawl-thru maze. The highlight, of course, facility-wise was the Rasmussen Crossing if even limited to brief uses here and there for now.

Special Needs

- New snow plow
- Utility dump trailer
- Newer model pickup truck, 4x4 with towing and hauling capability (e.g. F150-250), probably 2010- newer.
- Compact Utility Tractor (e.g. John Deere, Kubota)

Stay Connected

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Additional itineraries, schedules, & reports are online.

Please pray with us that we will be effective serving people this fall even as we prepare for future opportunities as well!

The Rasmussen Crossing

With camp fast approaching and our need to raise additional funds for the project, we shifted gears to prepare to have only limited use of our new building this summer. We were able to use it to get in out of the rain or to have brief activities. The response to our spring update letter was overwhelming. Churches and individuals from near and far were *very* generous. Our \$70,000 goal was met and then some. Projects always end up costing more than you expect. That is already proving to be true with the fire suppression hookup materials costs, but we are very thankful to be in a position to keep moving forward.

Prior to camp our additional 10,000-gallon tank arrived and during Junior Camp our \$75,000 pump arrived. The whole thing is huge! It sits on a 10'+ x 12'+ skid and includes all sorts of pipes and tanks and so forth. It certainly looks like we got our money's worth! Since camp has ended, we have been able to purchase the materials needed to run plumbing from the tanks/pump site over to the Crossing. Some of these materials were hard to come by. More than once in this project we heard that we were getting the last of something "on the ground" that would keep us from having to wait months into 2022 to get it.



[Arrival of our Fire System Pump](#)

The plumbing work is scheduled to begin September 13. We have also been able to purchase dry wall for the interior finish of part of the Crossing. This is one of the requirements to be able to officially use the building. Lord willing, we will be setting up a "dry wall party" in the near future. Please pray for the completion of these fire suppression requirements this fall!

Fall Events

We have already hosted a private men's retreat for a church in Phoenix since summer camp ended. This has become an annual event which allows us to partner with a likeminded church for a time of Bible preaching and fellowship.

We are just days away from our annual Youth Conference in Phoenix. Evangelist Glenn Stevenson, who has served with us for the past three summers, will be preaching during this one-day event for teenagers. The following week we will be back on site in Williams for our Ladies & Girls' Night in the Pines. This retreat features Bible teaching services as well as a lot of relaxing activity options in the cool pines.

Joining our team this fall is Moriah Lara who graduated from the Bill Rice Bible Institute in August and is now helping in housekeeping and food service especially. We are excited to have her serving with us this fall as she fulfills such an important role. We are also already actively recruiting summer staff for 2022! Between our slate of fall retreats, we will take at least two trips to Bible colleges to find volunteers for next summer.