



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

County remodel permit to facilitate the Crossing bathrooms projects

2023 Summer Camps

Deaf Campers to take advantage of our Free Week of Camp offer!

Project Status

Rasmussen Crossing – We are contracted with an engineer to represent us with Coconino County in order to tie in a septic tank for new bathrooms to our current system. Work has been slowed by extreme winter weather and the busyness of construction in our area.

Upcoming Events:

May 8-15 - Final Senior Trip

June 2-3 Ladies Summer Getaway

June 19 - Summer Camps
July 21

westbranchAZ.org

Spring Ministry

There are two ways to look at 2023 so far: "we have had a brutal winter," or, "God has been very good to us!" Actually, both are very true. The city of Williams set a modern snowfall record this winter. We exceeded that amount at West Branch by over 20" for a total of 157" of snow. With the snow came equipment failures, building damage, general weariness, being snowbound, and even being "flood-bound." Visit us now, and you might not realize any of that, as things are getting back on track, and we are mostly in summer preparation mode now.

Without a doubt, the most remarkable thing about the year so far, however, has been the fact that we have not missed a single ministry opportunity due to the extreme conditions. We have had church meetings from January through April, and each time, we have been able to get to those preaching engagements even when we may have been snowbound for four days leading up to them! It really has been remarkable.

We did have to move our Men on the Move Conference to a different location though. By mid-February, we began wondering if our situation would normalize in time for the conference one month later. In early March, we decided to cancel the event. However, a church volunteered to host the meeting. So, we moved the whole event to north Tucson and had a wonderful meeting of Bible preaching where it was clear the Lord was working. We regret that some planning to attend could not make the switch in venue, but we truly had no other viable option. We are convinced this was of the Lord.

Since then, we have also had several Christian school senior classes come for their senior trip. We accommodate them and preach to them each day before they visit the local sites. We were blessed to have local snowmelt flooding recede enough at just the right times to make all this possible. 2023 has not gone the way we expected so far, but it is a great comfort to know that the Lord has had everything in control.



Men's conference held in north Tucson



Snow at camp maintained 4' in depth

Special Needs

- Commercial beverage/merchandise cooler
- Utility dump trailer
- Lefthanded softball gloves
- Compact Utility Tractor (e.g. John Deere, Kubota)
- Newer model pickup truck, 4x4 with towing and hauling capability (e.g. F250), probably 2010-newer.
- We are always trying to enhance our activity selection. If you have a gently used ping pong, Foosball, or other similar game table that you would be willing to donate, please let us know, especially if you would have the ability to transport it to us!

Stay Connected

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Additional itineraries, schedules, & reports are online.

Crossing Work

The severity of the winter slowed down the progress to get bathrooms put into the Rasmussen Crossing. However, just this week some needed surveying was completed to see if the building's sewer needs can be added to the current system via gravity. If not, a lift station will be required. Fortunately, the engineer remains optimistic that one way or the other, the building will be able to be added to our current system. Our first goal is to get the permit for the addition and then see where we are financially once we get a realistic estimate of the project.



Significantly more light in the activity areas of camp

In the meanwhile, we are doing finish work in the auditorium section of the Crossing. We are hoping to complete texturing and painting of that section before our Ladies Getaway in June.

We have recently been blessed to have additional exterior lights provided and installed in our activity area. We have also completed a minor renovation of an older building to accommodate speaker housing this summer.

Summer Camp Straight Ahead

The first of our summer staff arrives in less than four weeks! While we look forward to their assistance preparing for camp, we also have a lot to do to prepare for them! We are grateful for a couple of small groups planning to help us prepare for camp in addition to the staff volunteering to give their summer serving the Lord here.

We are expecting one jammed-packed Junior Camp and three teen camps planned which we also pray will see many decisions for the Lord. We are also beginning to fill our Summer Family Retreat.

Deaf camp is a very special part of the summer. We give a free week of camp to deaf young people ages 9-19. Through this effort, we hope to see kids who need the gospel come and be saved. We need help though! Each camper's support still needs to be raised. While some have given throughout the year for this need, there are more opportunities through our donations webpage. We also need to keep getting the word out! If you know any deaf people, ministries, or agencies, let them know about this great opportunity! You can find more info on our website.



Youth Campers



Deaf Campers, Leaders, and Staff