



# 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

Effective summer camp ministry and safety

Financial provision to complete the expansion of electrical and fire protection components required for the dining hall

Dining hall project management, plans, and contacts

Occupancy and health department permits for the summer

## Project Status

**Dining Hall**- \$52,000 has additionally been given for preliminary projects; the electrical expansion is in progress

**Open-air Auditorium Concrete Floor & Platform**- concrete floor is complete!

**Campground Enhancing**- Ongoing work with water runoff, roads, and sidewalks; a heavy duty tarp has been donated for dining cover

## Spring Ministry

The Lord provided us with great opportunities for ministry this spring. Both our Southwest Regional *Men on the Move* Conference in Williams, in March, and our Ladies Spring Getaway in Flagstaff, in April, were well attended with increased attendances over last year's events. We were able to serve thirty-one different churches from Arizona and New Mexico through these events. Both events went very well with great feedback from those who attended. Praise the Lord that two ladies were saved at the Getaway!



153 in attendance at the Ladies Spring Getaway

Along with the *West Branch on the Move* events, we were also able to serve through revival meetings and a family Bible conference in the past two months. Our travels took us to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Flagstaff and San Carlos, Arizona. Sara also recently spoke at two ladies events at the Evangelical Baptist Church, a bilingual ministry in the heart of Phoenix. We stayed to minister at the church on Sunday with Bro. Troy preaching. We have one additional church meeting before June.



Men on the Move Conference choir

## 2017 West Branch Events

- 6.3 Work Day
- 6.4-7.29 Southwest Youth Challenge
- 6.19-23 Youth Camp 1
- 6.26-30 Junior Camp FULL
- 7.6-8 Family Camp
- 7.10-14 Youth Camp 2 FULL
- 9.9 Arizona Regional Youth Conference, Peoria, AZ
- 9.15-16 Ladies & Girls' Night in the Pines
- 10.6-7 Men & Boys' Campout
- 10.13-14 Southwest Youth Challenge Retreat

## Special Needs

- Fencing "T" posts PROVIDED!
- Woods Finishing Mower
- Small beverage cooler PROVIDED!
- Canvass cover for outdoor dining area PROVIDED!
- New queen size bed

## Stay Connected

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## Moving Forward: Development

We have started the process to build a new 10,000 sq. ft. dining hall which will also house our next temporary auditorium. This building will enable us to expand our camp capacity and allow us to do more events year round. We expect about \$250,000 is needed for the infrastructure to support the building. Amazingly, a friend has promised to donate the money for the building itself (up to \$1,000,000) if we can raise the \$250,000. That means for every \$1 given, our donor is matching it with \$4! (View a virtual rendering of the building at westbranchAZ.org.)



Volunteers: Friendship Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

So far \$52,000 has come in. This has enabled us to begin expanding the electrical support needed for the building. As a bonus, this expansion will also provide lights for our outdoor basketball court this summer and be set up to support future buildings down the road.

We were also blessed to have a group of 19 volunteers from North Carolina come recently to do trenching for the project and complete other camp upgrades like a concrete floor for our open-air auditorium and fencing for a horse pasture.

## Summer Time!



Installing basketball court lights!

Summer camp is just around the corner! We await the arrival not only of the churches participating but also of the summer staff the Lord has provided. Most of them will be arriving June 9. Please pray for these young people as they contribute to the ministry this summer.

Our first actual week of camp begins June 19 with teenagers coming from Arizona and California. Registration has been especially strong for Junior Camp and our second Youth Camp, both of which are full and closed to new groups. We are also getting registrations in for our Family Camp in July. As there is much to do to get the campground ready for the summer, we would appreciate your prayers. Please also pray that the Lord will help us to be ready and usable in His service this summer.

Along with our summer camps, we will also be sponsoring the Southwest Youth Challenge. Previously limited to Arizona churches, this program is now open to churches around the region. The contest encourages young people to stay faithful to the Lord during the summer. Part of the incentive is a \$400 cash prize for the winning church. We will also follow up the contest with a retreat here at West Branch in October.