

Trailblazer

Keeping in touch, seeking your prayer and involvement.

West Branch of the Bill Rice Ranch, 2501 E. Pinetree Dr., Williams, AZ 86046

Building for Tomorrow in Northern Arizona

928-635-2097, westbranch@billriceranch.org. Troy Carlson, Director

Good News

Everyone likes good news, right? Of course! Our good news? We have had our first full-sized camps on the Williams property! While we would like to grow these camps over the next few years, we are very grateful to have had full-scale teen and junior camps on site.

After two weeks of summer staff training and a lot of last minute work on site, we welcomed over one hundred teenagers from Arizona and California to Youth Camp. With Bill Rice III, Troy Carlson, and several participating pastors preaching, we saw several young people saved and over one hundred

total decisions for Christ during the week. We were able to make good use of all the work done over the past year: an open air auditorium, activity improvements, electricity to the cabins, a brand new mobile kitchen, and much more.

After a brief 24-hour respite, we began Junior Camp with over eighty attending. We praise the Lord that part of this outreach included young people from various Native American communities around the state. Eight young people were saved that week!

Youth Camp Service



As you might imagine, as soon as we completed these camps, we were already planning for 2016. While there are still many details to work out, we have already received some good news on the development front.

First of all, we have found out that permitting the water system will not (continued on back)

Volume 9, Issue 4 8.25.2015

www.westbranchAZ.org

Upcoming Ministry:

- Sept. 12 Youth Conference Peoria, AZ
- Sept. 13 pm Mountain Side Baptist Church Surprise, AZ
- Oct. 12-13 Youth Challenge Retreat @ WB program begins
- Oct. 16-17 Rocky Mountain Men on the Move Conf. Fort Collins, CO
- Oct. 19-21 First Baptist Church Gunnison, CO

Evangelists Bill Rice III and Matt Downs will also be preaching in the West. Check westbranchAZ.org for details.

Please pray for:

1. *Effective fall ministry through West Branch on the Move*
2. *Progress on the sanitation, water, and fire protection projects*
3. *Financial provision for ongoing projects*

Arizona Youth Challenge REPORT

In just eight weeks, the churches in our seventh annual Arizona Youth Challenge attended over 3,900 services, brought 106 visitors to church, and distributed nearly 4,000 gospel tracts. This year seemed to have an emphasis on scrip-

ture memory with 5,460 Bible verses memorized! Also, the teens recorded 3,541 days of Bible reading. Praise the Lord for the Word of God they put into their minds! For the third time, our champion was Open Door Baptist Church in Catalina. They



Youth Camp activity around the newly lined basketball court and recently built bleacher shade

edged out another former champ, Tohono O'odham Baptist of Casa Grande. Open Door won a free retreat at West Branch, and the other winners will receive mountains of goodies to be distributed at our upcoming Youth Conference in Peoria.

Our annual youth conference in the Phoenix Valley is September 12.



2015 Trailblazers

Thank you to each and every one of the **forty-nine churches** that qualified to be 2015 **Trailblazers**, our highest number ever! Your consistent involvement is a great blessing to us! Any church that has ever hosted an event qualifies. Others qualify through participation, giving, or using West Branch evangelists.



West Branch Schedule

- **Arizona Regional Youth Conference**
Peoria, AZ September 12
- **Rocky Mountain Regional *Men on the Move* Conference**
Fort Collins, CO October 16-17
- **Southwest Regional *Men on the Move* Conference**
Williams, AZ March 18-19, 2016
- **Arizona Youth Challenge**
across Arizona June 5-July 30, 2016
- **Summer Camps Staff Training, Youth I & II, Junior Camp**
Williams, AZ June 11-July 9, 2016

Workers Needed! *Fall 2015/ Spring 2016 Projects for Volunteers:* concrete pad, fire hydrant and supply lines installation, water heater/furnace hookup, softball field backstop installation, rodeo corral fence building, tree trimming

Ongoing Projects

- **Sanitation System** We are awaiting a permit which should be just a formality at this point. Since the system will now cover all eleven existing buildings, we are awaiting an updated cost estimate. Estimated additional need beyond what has already been raised: \$50,000.
- **Water System** We have contracted an engineer to design this simple system for the eleven current buildings. The design will allow us to get a cost estimate and move forward with our contractor. Early estimate: \$40,000 + \$7,000 for related propane system.
- **Fire Protection System** We are in early stages of design on a scaled back 30,000 gallon system (see "Good News"). We need three 10,000 gallon tanks and a concrete pad. Estimate yet to come.
- **Kitchen Commissary** We need to outfit two locations on camp to serve as a county-approved commissary for reserve food storage to keep from using locations off site. This involves NSF approved shelving, a commercial refrigerator, and a commercial freezer. Estimate: \$11,000.
- **Smaller Projects** Assembling a donated softball backstop, pouring concrete stoops for cabins, additional activity construction such as a rodeo corral fence. Mostly volunteers needed.

Good News continued from front

require as much involvement from state departments as was recently expected. We have employed an engineer to draw up the official plans so that we can get an accurate cost estimate. We already have a contractor that is willing to put the



Recently donated material for a softball backstop. Workers needed for installation.

system in. After some research last month, we believe he will be able to handle the adjacent propane line installation as well.

Since we have shifted to incremental installation of all infrastructure, we approached city officials about a scaled back fire protection system also. They have agreed to decrease our required water storage from 130,000 to 30,000 gallons. This is a huge step in getting that project accomplished as well.



Morning Challenge during Junior Camp

No doubt, there are many hurdles to face in the months ahead. We certainly need more funds, more volunteers, and the Lord's continued favor with local officials. For now, we are just encouraged with all this good news!