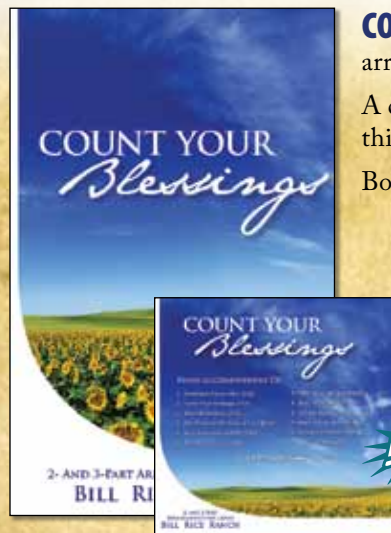




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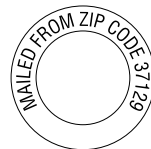


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April–May 2011, Vol. 50—No. 2



From the President

What Will Your Kids Remember?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV



Isn't it amazing what kids remember? After vacationing in Colorado several years back, I asked each of my children my traditional "What was your favorite thing about vacation?" question. Was it hiking the Rockies or biking to town? Was it the rodeo or the ride up the ski lift?

"Tacos," my son replied. Tacos? You mean I went all the way to Colorado for my son to eat a taco?! "I liked swimming in Kansas," my daughter recalled. The pool in question was at the sub-standard motel in which we lodged on the way home. "We have a pool back home on the Ranch!" I thought in exasperation. No doubt, kids have memory. The question is, "What kind of memory do they have?"

Kids never seem to remember. They forget to shut the fridge, to feed the dog, to say "thank you" at the appropriate time, or to put the cap back on the tube of toothpaste. Then again, their father probably forgets too! Not that I would know about that personally, mind you, but I have read about it.

On the other hand, kids never seem to forget. I am often surprised at the "Dad quotations" they can retrieve from archives almost as old as they are! Sometimes simple moments or statements are profound enough to harden in their minds like an unintended step onto wet cement.

Kids also have an uncanny ability to sense, file, and then retrieve your most embarrassing moments. "Hey Mom, remember the time your cell phone rang in the middle of the church service, and it was buried at the bottom of your purse? What was the tune your ringer was playing?" Or, "Dad, I remember when Grandpa opened the same present he had given you the Christmas before. I think you forgot that it came from him." Yes, Son, I forgot.

Perhaps children have no greater power of memory than the one they have for promises, real or perceived, that you have made. I may not remember the casual suggestion I make to my family about getting a Coke and hamburger on the coming weekend, but my kids never forget! I am afraid that my impulse is stronger than my planning. Often, my wife will raise an eyebrow in my direction when a Rice child reminds dear old Dad of his great plans for the weekend. Just as often, all I can say is, "It sounded like a good idea at the time!"

Spring is a time to grow some memories in the mind of your child. It is a season for May flowers and wedding showers, graduations and retirements. Too often, though, we wait for an event to happen for a memory to be formed instead of purposely making a memory for our children. Don't wait; time surely doesn't.

The Ranch is a wonderful place to experience moments that you will enjoy for many years to come. While I hope that you will consider sending a child you love to camp, I think I may have an even better idea. Bring that kid to camp! We have events for children, parents, and grandparents.

May 13 and 14 is the time for our annual Father and Son Adventure. Your son (young or grown) will love the horse rides, hikes, games, and good food! In the summer, there are two family weeks to choose from, space permitting. I believe your whole family would enjoy the week. More importantly, I think they would enjoy time together as a family!

What do your kids remember? Why not take an active role in shaping the answer to that question? Having a good memory is not necessarily the same as having good memories. Both are important, and both require work.

www.billriceranch.org



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*"Simple moments...
HARDEN IN THEIR MINDS."*

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Speaker: Evangelist Wil Rice IV

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or call **1.800.253.RICE** Make your plans now—register today!



I Be Stylin'

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

"I be stylin'." Now what does that mean? Well, obviously, it would mean that I am in style.

The larger question is: what does it mean to be *in style*? Webster says *style* means "a popular taste at a given time." Close, but what does he know? Style is "looking silly ahead of time." And that is the *correct* definition.

"But your definition, Bill, doesn't make sense," you say. Ah, but it does, dear Reader. Allow me to explain. Get a photograph of yourself that is twenty years old. Naturally, if you are nineteen or younger, you'll have to improvise; but if you are, say thirty, this task should be simple. Now look at the photograph, and tell me how you appear. Silly, right? And we are being kind.

"That hair." That's if you are a lady. "I have hair!" That's if you're a guy. "That dress or shirt. The tie, the scarf. And look at those shoes! I can't believe we used to wear those!"

I'm with you on that. I mean, really, isn't it a riot to see what we looked like, what we wore, and how we dressed twenty years ago? It was, *he-he*, really silly. Now for those of you who looked at a twenty-year-old picture of yourself or a friend and said, "We didn't look too bad," I have a statement. Get real! "Didn't look too bad" means you had clean teeth! But look again at the dress or shirt or tie or shoes. I chuckle just thinking about it!

Why is it that you look funny in those pictures? Well, because you were in style then, and those styles have changed. And so, looking back with the current styles as your standard, you realize you looked funny. Now to sum up, you look good today—*stylish*, one would say. So take a picture, put it in the top drawer of the dresser, and prepare for a chuckle in twenty years, maybe sooner.



I rest my case. Style is looking silly ahead of time!

"Look at the way we wore our hair in the '80s," a friend once said to me with a laugh.

"Look at the way we wear our hair in 2011," I thought.

Change is a big deal to all of us. When something becomes popular, for whatever reason, we seem to want to change our taste to accommodate. All of us believe in improvement surely, but *style*—at least in appearance—usually has little to do with improving our lives. Style lives pretty much to please itself.

Aren't you happy that God doesn't concern Himself with style? "...*I am the Lord, I change not*," God says. The Lord did not appear to be silly or irrelevant twenty years ago, and He most certainly will not be in the days and years ahead.

BACK AT THE RANCH...

Early Spring Highlights

Two Ranch revival teams have held services in eighteen Florida and fourteen Arizona churches since January 1. They held a youth conference in Florida and a family conference in Arizona in conjunction with these church meetings. The youth conference saw more than a 25% increase in attendance and featured preaching, a volleyball tournament, and many great spiritual decisions by the teenagers. The family conference had an attendance of 291, a 60% increase, with 20 Arizona churches represented.



SPECIAL WORK DAYS A church group of nineteen people came from Kentucky to do special projects on the Ranch in early March. The group did repair and renovation in the Paul Levin building, cleared brush, sewed curtains for camp cabins, did some cleaning, and put up new lights in the rodeo arena. These lights were donated to the Ranch last fall. Another group recently combined a family get-together with a work project offstage in the John R. Rice Auditorium.

Our annual spring men's Work Day will be held April 9. Please let us know if you or someone you know near the Ranch would like to come and help!

SUMMER STAFF RECRUITING NEARS AN END

We are so thankful for God's provision regarding the 2011 summer staff team! All of our operational staff and lady counselor positions have been filled. However, we still need seven additional counselor men to help with our junior and youth week programs.



Someone Call a Nurse!

We also need someone with medical expertise (RN, Paramedic, PA, etc.) to serve as our camp nurse this summer. Responsibilities include supervising our First Aid Station with several college-aged first aid assistants.

If you or someone you know might be interested in filling one of these vital positions for next summer, please contact the Bill Rice Ranch Recruiting Department by emailing recruitment@billriceranch.org or calling (615) 893-2767, ext. 135.



PREPARATION FOR DAY CAMP Seeking to build on the success of our first local Day Camp last summer, we have already begun advertising efforts for this summer. Day camp is a



Day Camp

special ministry to our friends in Rutherford County and other neighboring communities. Special mailings, take-home packets in local schools, and other local advertising will accompany a special Open House on the Ranch, April 30.

FIRST LIGHT readership is now above 2,600 contacts! If it is a blessing to you, help us spread the word.

FROM

West Branch

by Evangelist Troy Carlson

Blend

This spring our **West Branch on the Move** ministry team visited fourteen churches in a three and a half week time frame. We sang in ensembles and trios while also providing preaching and children's programs. At one particular stop we received a very nice compliment. The music director at the church said that we had an amazing blend!

I thank the Lord for the voices He sent our way. We had someone to sing each needed part: soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, and bass. But having every part is not the same as having a good blend! In fact, sometimes when five singers sing, that is what they sound like—five different singers singing! It is an entirely different thing to sound like one voice, especially when you are singing different parts.

Sometimes blend is natural—when the singers are all from the same family, for instance. That wasn't the case with us; we had to work on our blend. A couple of our voices were trained; but I, among others, have only minimal vocal training. The coordinator of the group's music helped us though: "Listen to each other when you sing. Match the voice quality of each other. Mainly just listen!"

God showed me a verse of scripture that expressed my desire for our team's music: "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God..." (Romans 15:6). So there you have it. If we achieved any success in blend, it was not because we were brilliant, or even because we were related; it was because we listened.

Music wasn't the only area where our ministry team sought blend. In fact, I would say it wasn't even the primary area. Our primary "blend" was with the churches we visited around Arizona. As a ministry that operates "as an evangelist," we sought to join the pastor in stirring their people to love and good works (Ephesians 4:11; Hebrews 10:24). This was also the reason for our seventh regional Conference on Marriage and the Home: to stir people to love and good works...within their homes.

We have done this spring tour for five years now. It has been a highlight of each year for my family! We see many friends, and count it a privilege to join forces with some godly people.



The Carlsons' family conference at the Arizona family conference



We seek to "blend" our efforts with theirs for the cause of Christ.

I said earlier that the secret to blending is listening. That is true. In the case of blending ministry, it does help to listen to each other; but even more importantly, we need to listen to the Lord's leading. Throughout the tour, we sought the Lord's favor and His direction. We knew if we listened to Him, He would enable us to provide Bible help and encouragement that we could not give on our own. And we pray He will continue to do so in the future.

2011 SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 12-17

Youth I (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth I (Coyle, Schettler, Ingram)
Deaf I (R. Rice, Snare)

June 20-24

Day Camp

June 26-July 1

Youth II (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth II (Carlson, Cook, Redlin)
Deaf II (R. Rice, Snare)

July 3-7

Junior III (Ranch Evangelists)
Family I (Mercado, Edwards)

July 10-15

Junior IV (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth III (Miller, Reilly, Gaddis)
Deaf III (R. Rice, Snare)

July 17-22

Junior V (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth IV (Thompson, Goetsch)
Deaf IV (R. Rice, Snare)

July 24-29

Junior VI (Ranch Evangelists)
Youth V (Downs, Beal, Goetsch Jr.)
Deaf V (R. Rice, Snare)

July 31-Aug. 4

Deaf Adult Conference
Sign Language School
Family II (D. Hardy, R. Miller)

Space is limited—register today!

2011 Summer theme:



The Perfect Family Vacation FAMILY CAMP

WEEK I
July 3-7

Dick Mercado, Sr.
Mike Edwards
Bill Rice III
Wil Rice IV

WEEK II
July 31-Aug. 4

Dave Hardy
Randy Miller
Bill Rice III
Wil Rice IV



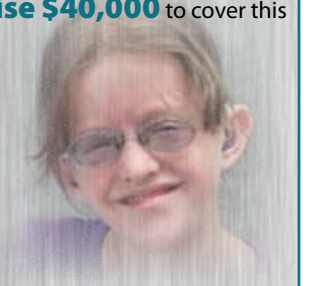
CAMPERSHIPS NEEDED!

The foundational financial need at the Ranch has always been the Deaf Campership Fund.

This fund makes our effort to win deaf young people to Christ possible, because these deaf young people come to camp here and in the Philippines every summer **free of charge**.

One campership is \$200. Any gift up to and beyond that amount is a great help as **we seek to raise \$40,000** to cover this fund for 2011.

You may designate a check to "Campership" or donate online at billriceranch.org.



Needs at the Ranch

- **Portable 125 CFM air compressor**
- **Rock Drill**
- **Small Sized Self-propelled Road Grader** (for upkeep of road at West Branch)
- **Digital SLR camera & external flash**

If you have a lead on any of these items or you would like to make a donation of one of these items to the Ranch, please contact Dale Stover, 615-893-2767, ext. 105 or dstover@billriceranch.org