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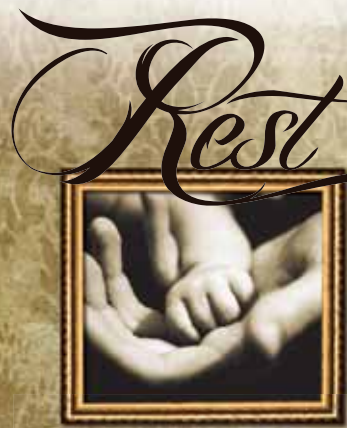
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## Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS

**new!**

**God provides rest for his people**—rest from the weariness and pains of life, from the mundane and ordinary wear of life to the deeper grief and anguish we each encounter. In Psalm 37:7, we are reminded to “rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.” Sena Rice beautifully encourages the heart with these soothing songs that refresh the spirit and help each of us to rest in the hands of a loving Heavenly Father. You will be uplifted and strengthened as your heart is encouraged to rest in the Lord. Songs include: *And the Very God of Peace*; *God Leads Us Along*; *Cares Medley*; and more.

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MELODIES OF CALM AND QUIET

BY *Sena Rice*

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*From the President*

## When You Are God's Answer

*by Evangelist Wil Rice IV*



It had been a long, cold spring day. My family and I had been driving into a stiff wind all day on our way to revival meetings in northern Illinois. When we were about an hour from our destination, I had one more stop to make. I had already passed the best exit for our needs, but the next exit would have to do.

We took this exit off I-39 to a lonely Shell station. I was thrilled to see that it had an RV island large enough for our forty-foot fifth-wheel. As I eased my rig into place, I noticed a car resting by the air pump on the other side of the island. The sub-compact Toyota at the air pump was faded black and duct tape silver. To call the rusty variety show a “car” is being generous. The Toyota looked as if it had been “ridden hard and put up wet”; and if it were a horse, the only compassionate thing to do would have been to put it down!

The driver, trying fruitlessly to get the air pump to work, was perhaps in her mid-to-upper forties, her dark hair blowing about her like a wind chime in a hurricane. I found it ironic that she was willing to pay one dollar in quarters for air when the free stuff was enough to blow both of us all the way to the Windy City! The reason for her efforts became clear the moment I looked down at her crumpled tire on the warped rim.

“Do you need help?” I yelled into the wind. As it turned out, that was a dumb question. Fifteen minutes later, I was still trying to dig two jammed quarters out of a one-quarter slot. The Heartland’s frigid breath blew at my hair and boxed my ears.

Needing a rest from the oppressive wind so I could think of a “Plan B,” I retreated to my diesel and my family (who, by this time, had been waiting almost twenty minutes). “I can’t dislodge the quarters!” I wheezed. “Well,” my wife replied from her safe spot in the passenger’s seat, “does she have a spare tire?”

“What?” I thought. “What!” I protested. How could my wife think about being a help when all that was required was for me to do my duty? I had tried! We needed to make time. The garage, nowhere close, was now closed. I’m not a mechanic, for crying out loud – I’m a preaching RVer. I’m the guy that is supposed to *need* a mechanic! But the lady needed me.

As it turned out, putting on the spare tire was much quicker and easier than trying to get her quarters back. The scrawny bicycle tire in the trunk was to a car what a Band-Aid is to a shark attack survivor. I was hoping it would stick. Because I wasn’t sure, we followed her at fifty-five miles an hour until she was safely to her exit. God had arranged the whole thing.

Earlier, when the job was done, I had given my fellow traveler a gospel tract. “Oh!” she exclaimed. “Are you a Christian? I prayed that God would send somebody to help!”

“Well,” I replied, “I didn’t pray for a flat, but God answered your prayer, not mine!” And He had.

It is great to get your prayers answered, but it’s not bad being God’s answer to somebody else’s prayer either. Sometimes being a part of God’s answer to another person’s prayer is better than getting an answer to your own. Sometimes being that answer means being off schedule, cold, tired, and responding to “random” events.

The Ranch is here because of a father and mother, Bill and Cathy Rice, who prayed for their deaf daughter to hear the Gospel until one day they realized that they were God’s answer. Since you are reading this, I would suppose that you may very well be part of the continuing answer to that prayer and countless others. Thank you for your prayers this summer. What is more, thank you for all you do in answer to those prayers!

www.billriceranch.org



## Inside this issue

**Mind Games**

*by Evangelist Bill Rice III*

## Back at the Ranch

Weekly Blessings

## The Ranch Is People:

Old Memories, Continued Partnership

*by Evangelist Troy Carlson*

## Independence Day RETREAT July 4

All day event for the whole family!

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horse rides, two meals, Cowboy Town,  
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**“God”** HAD ARRANGED  
THE WHOLE THING.”





## Mind Games

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked..." the Bible says, and I suppose we all know that. But when we think about the trickery of our hearts, we usually think of great moral matters. Our hearts (or minds – that is what Jeremiah is talking about) are deceitful about all kinds of things. They can't be trusted. Have you ever returned to a childhood home as an adult, only to be shocked that the size of the house was smaller than you remembered? In other words, the house was smaller than your mind told you it was.

Have you ever heard the statement, "In politics, perception is reality"? The idea is that people can believe things that are not true, just because they are perceived as true. Recently, I spent twenty minutes looking for a car wash that my brain told me was south on the west side of the street. Well, I finally found it. It was north on the east side.

And before we attack the ability of my brain to remember stuff—a tactic which, admittedly, would be a successful battle plan—haven't you ever remembered your keys being on the dress-

er when they were in a pocket or purse? Or haven't you ever remembered someone saying something that they didn't say?

Add feelings or emotion to this mix, and your mind is about as trustworthy as President Clinton saying, "I didn't..." Okay, so my little attempt at humor may be over the top, but surely you get the idea. You can't trust you—me either. But we can both trust in the Lord Jesus and the Bible.

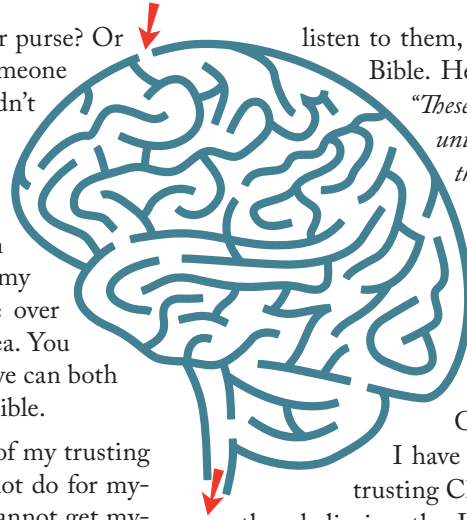
You know, salvation is a matter of my trusting Christ to do for me what I cannot do for myself. I am by nature a sinner. I cannot get myself to Heaven. But the Bible says that eternal life is a gift and that Christ purchased this gift by paying the price—death—for my sin. The Bible also says that if I will believe on Christ, the gift is mine. To believe on Christ means to trust Him, to rely on Him.

I cannot save myself, but the Lord Jesus has promised to give me eternal life if I will trust Him for it. So, what if I have trusted Christ to save me, and I have believed on Him, but still my mind gives me doubts?

"Bill, you claim to be saved, but look at you! Frankly, I'm not so sure!" Powerful words. I can

listen to them, or I can listen to the Bible. Here is what God says: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." I John 5:13

God says I can know I have eternal life by simply trusting Christ for salvation and then believing the Lord when He says I have eternal life. The heart is deceitful; Christ is not. He is truth. In a day when we do not trust others or even ourselves, the Lord Jesus and the Bible are trustworthy. Wonderful, isn't it? I may believe a politician in November only to be disappointed in June. I may recall words from your mouth that you never uttered. I may think I am well only to find that I'm sick, or I may feel sick when I am healthy. But I can know with certainty that what the Lord says in His Book is true, and I can know it is true simply because He said it. Since my heart is deceitful, I am thankful for a Savior who is not.



## THE RANCH is PEOPLE

### Old Memories, Continued Partnership by Evangelist Troy Carlson

The year was 1993. For the first time in my life I stepped foot onto the Bill Rice Ranch. I anticipated a great summer serving the Lord, but I had no idea how it would shape my life and open doors of ministry for me in the future.

From hometowns in Vermont, Idaho, and North Carolina, three others also came to the Ranch for the first time: Sara Taylor, Colan Deatherage, and Leslie Murray. While many we worked with that summer had previously been campers at the Ranch, we and a few others were first-timers. In distinct ways, our experiences at the Ranch helped shape who we are today. For Sara and me, the shared experience gave us a reference point to later date and eventually marry. Colan and Leslie followed the same path. Sara Taylor became Sara Carlson, and Leslie Murray became Leslie Deatherage.

After being apart from the Deathrages for more than ten years, Sara and I recently renewed acquaintances with them. Pastor Colan invited our family to come to his church in Pocatello, Idaho, to conduct their annual Renewal Conference. It was great to share

1993



memories of old times. It was even better to work together with them and the dear folks of Pocatello Baptist. The ministry partnership we now share was begun by a ministry partnership eighteen years ago.

About the time you are reading this article, we will be beginning new ministry partnerships right here on the Ranch. Our 2011 summer staff will soon come together for the purpose of seeing lives changed. Like us four "old-timers," a small percentage of the summer staff will come having never visited the Ranch before.

We thank the Lord for the faith of these young people to follow the Lord's leading which brought them from homes across the continental United States and beyond.

We also thank the Lord for those we have worked with before. Over half of our summer staff counselors and operational staff have served with us previously. In five cases, we will be working with young people whose parents served as summer or full-time staff in the past. As a special treat, my wife and I will enjoy working with five young people on summer staff from our home church in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Many summer staff alumni will also join us as church counselors—a pastor from Indiana, a youth pastor from Ohio, and a church worker from Georgia, to name just a few. Our ministry fellowship has progressed beyond the brief time serving together as Ranch staff to a partnership which includes the churches they now serve.

As we spent time with the Deathrages, we recalled funny moments, memorable co-workers, and the Lord's working in the lives of people we served. Most notably, I believe, we all remember fondly how the Lord worked in *our* lives, shaping us to be more like Him and making us more useable for the service we enjoy today.

## BACK AT THE RANCH...

### Day of Champions



### Weekly Blessings at Home and on the Road

During the past two and a half months, the Ranch has been active every week seeing multiple examples of God's blessings. In March, West Branch's annual Southwest Regional *Men on the Move* Conference registered its largest attendance ever, with groups coming from around Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. Our West Branch Ladies Spring Getaway in Flagstaff, Arizona, had to close to new registrations as early as mid-April and enjoyed a full-capacity attendance.

April began with the first-ever **Day of Champions**. Nearly three hundred teenagers from five states attended the all-day youth event at the Ranch in Murfreesboro. We also conducted our first **Ohio Regional Conference on Marriage and the Home** in West Carrollton, Ohio. This event was a great success and has been scheduled again for 2012.

On April 9, thirty-four men joined eleven Ranch staff men to work on ten projects during the **annual Work Day**. Thank you, local friends, for your investment in our joint ministry! Three additional groups have worked on the renovation for the new **Stoutenborough Chapel** inside the John R. Rice Auditorium.

Summer staff recruiting has been completed. We are thankful for all those joining our team including our **summer nurse** (this need had been presented in previous editions of the *Branding Iron*).

Whether through revival meetings stretching from Alaska to Maine or through one of our events, like the Father & Son Adventure, the Lord has really blessed the Ranch this spring!

### The Bill Rice Ranch—Where the Deaf Hear!

Evangelists Nathan McConnell and Ronnie Rice conducted five deaf rallies this spring with several saved through these efforts. In preparation for deaf camps this summer, Ranch staff also attended two deaf expos and visited five state schools for the Deaf. Are you coming to the Ranch this summer? Consider providing transportation for deaf young people (ages 9-19) in your area who want to attend a free week of camp. Contact Nathan McConnell at nmcconnell@billriceranch or 615-893-2767, ext. 112, for more information.

### Men's Work Day



### Deaf Rally



Upcoming Conferences on Marriage and the Home:			
Michigan Regional	Oct. 7-8, 2011		
Bill Rice Ranch	Dec. 1-3, 2011		
Arizona Regional	Feb. 24-25, 2012		
Texas Regional	March 2-3, 2012		
Ohio Regional	April 20-21, 2012		

### Christian Schools & Homeschoolers!

**Elementary Retreats** (Grades 3-6)  
Aug. 26-27 & Sept. 9-10 Cost \$15

**Junior High Retreat** (Grades 7-9)  
Sept. 19-21 Cost: \$45

*Start the school year off right with these exciting retreats!*

### 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



## 2011 SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 12-17	<b>JUL I</b> (Ranch Evangelists) <b>Youth I</b> (Coyle, Schettler, Ingram) <b>Deaf I</b> (R. Rice, Snare)
June 20-24	<b>Day Camp</b>
June 26-July 1	<b>JUL II</b> (Ranch Evangelists) <b>Youth II</b> (Carlson, Cook, Redlin) <b>Deaf II</b> (R. Rice, Snare)
July 3-7	<b>Junior III</b> (Ranch Evangelists) <b>Family I</b> (Mercado, Edwards)
July 10-15	<b>Junior IV</b> (Ranch Evangelists) <b>Youth III</b> (Miller, Reilly, Gaddis) <b>Deaf III</b> (R. Rice, Snare)
July 17-22	<b>Junior V</b> (Ranch Evangelists) <b>Youth IV</b> (Thompson, Goetsch) <b>Deaf IV</b> (R. Rice, Snare)
July 24-29	<b>Junior VI</b> (Ranch Evangelists) <b>Youth V</b> (Downs, Beal, Goetsch Jr.) <b>Deaf V</b> (R. Rice, Snare)
July 31-Aug. 4	<b>Deaf Adult Conference</b> <b>Sign Language School</b> <b>Family II</b> (D. Hardy, R. Miller)

Space is limited—register today!

2011 Summer theme: **THIS IS THE Day**  
PSALM 118:24

Very soon, approximately **100 summer staff members** will arrive at the Ranch to volunteer their time as counselors, operational staff, and Summer CORE workers. Every one will come trusting God to provide their needs in response to their giving the summer to the Lord. **The Ranch is also trusting the Lord to provide** what we will give them as a weekly volunteer allowance to take care of minor expenses they have while here. We give out volunteer allowances weekly beginning **June 11**, before the first week of camp.

Would you pray about entering into this **FAITH PROJECT** with us? Whether you have a little or a lot that you can share, your gift will be greatly appreciated and reap eternal dividends. You might consider one of these FAITH PROJECT levels:

FAITH PROJECT Level	Gift Amount	Provides for	Number of Gifts Needed Per level
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>\$50 gift</b>	one counselor for one week	<b>630</b> <small>(70 counselors × 9 weeks each)</small>
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>\$135 gift</b>	one CORE position for the summer	<b>14</b>
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>\$270 gift</b>	one operational staff member for the summer	<b>20</b>
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>\$450 gift</b>	one counselor for the summer	<b>70</b>



Everyone sending a **gift marked "FAITH PROJECT"** will receive a **personal note from a summer staff member** you are supporting, sharing how God has used them and worked in their lives this summer.