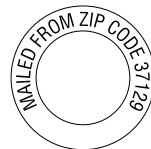




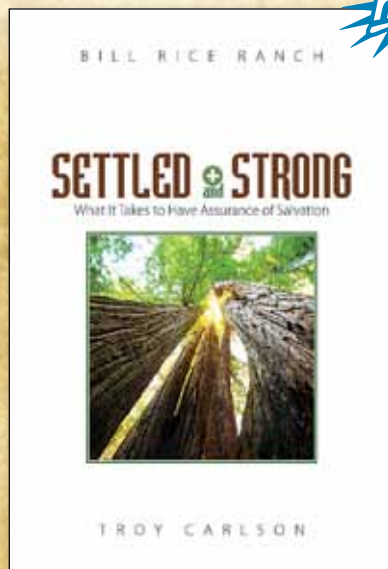
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Evangelist Troy Carlson

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April-May 2012, Vol. 51—No. 2



From the President

The Road Home

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

It was dark on Highway 96, our road home from a little project at our church, Spring Meadow Baptist Church. Without warning, a clump of grass just off the shoulder gathered itself and began running alongside the shoulder, as if to race us home. Then the "clump of grass" transformed into a raccoon!



He was quick enough to give no warning and slow enough to give no way around him. By now, the glare of my fog lamps off his coat replaced the momentary clarity of his shape. I'm sure it was a blur for both of us. He stepped away, but it was in the wrong direction! He stepped away from the night and right into my Mercury. Wham! It was like we were riding atop a giant club; we could feel it. I am sure he did not.

"Dumb raccoon!" I heard myself exclaim. I felt kind of sorry for the little guy, but I must confess that there was an impatience inside of me that said he got what was coming to him. It wasn't smart to step toward a moving vehicle, especially one eager to avoid him!

The next morning we loaded back into the Mountaineer for an early Sunday morning drive to a church a couple hours away where I would be preaching. As we headed away from our house and toward the entrance to Highway 96, we spotted nearly a dozen white-tailed deer. We see them nearly every day here on the Ranch.

"Look!" I said, "Deer." From the back seat, often an observation post for my kids, my eight-year-old son Weston piped up, "Don't hit 'em, Dad!"

It didn't matter that I drive thousands of miles across the country every month. It didn't matter that I rarely hit critters in the road. It didn't matter that I was on my way to preach! No matter who you are, what you have done, or what success you may have enjoyed, there will always be someone who knows that you have rolled a raccoon!

I have learned from experience that there is no perfect family. There are no perfect people! Yet, while I may not be perfect, I can be "real." My kids know when I am real and when I am not. "Keeping it real at home" does not mean conceding defeat; it means an honesty that produces a genuine faith in God's help for my shortcomings.

The "real world" is no match for genuine faith at home! The Apostle Paul called Timothy his "dearly beloved son," a great blessing to Timothy in the absence of a strong "father figure." Timothy was not raised in a perfect home! But he was prepared to face the hostile world Paul spoke of in II Timothy chapter one because he was brought up in the home mentioned in verse five: "...I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

Too many of us have bought a fable about what it means to live in "the real world." Somehow we think that we protect ourselves from the "real world," code for the evil available out there, by exposing ourselves to it! I suppose we think that it is something like gaining immunity to disease by controlled exposure to it! There must be a better way, and there is.

Likely, the truth is that both you and your family are already far more exposed to the world's system than you realize. You are bombarded daily, perhaps hourly, by the world's ways despite any walls you may have erected. We do not need more exposure to the world, real or otherwise. What our children need is more exposure to the truth found in God's Word and illustrated by our lives.

A genuine life in the present is preferable to "perfection" in the past. A genuine life of honesty before your family and dependence upon the Lord is a path to success for your children in the future! We've all hit a raccoon or two, but any one of us can and should steer our kids in a steady course for the right destination.

www.billriceranch.org



Inside this issue

Seeing His Saviour
by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Back at the Ranch
Serving on the Road,
Preparing at Home

The Ranch Is People
Training People to Help Others
by Evangelist Troy Carlson

2012 EVENTS

Year-round Retreats & Conferences

Find out more ONLINE!
www.billriceranch.org

Visit our website for complete details on each upcoming event at the Ranch. You can view pictures, download registration forms, and best of all—you can share each event with your friends via social media tools.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

LADIES' RETREAT

God's PROMISES to a Woman's Heart

October 11-13 Cost: \$85

♥ Helpful Bible Teaching ♥ Encouraging Fellowship
♥ Delicious Meals ♥ Country Craft Fair

GUEST SPEAKER: **Gail Walls**
Pastor's Wife

HOST SPEAKERS:
**Mary Rice,
Wil & Sena Rice**

MEN'S CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 2-3 COST: \$45

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The Perfect Family Vacation

FAMILY CAMP

WEEK I
July 1-5

WEEK II
July 29-Aug. 2





Seeing His Saviour

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

His job was simple, some would say. The Army engineer, at twenty years of age, had to build bridges in the French countryside. So, in 1944, his main work was to replace bridges the Germans had destroyed with pontoon bridges provided by the advancing Americans. He loved his country, his native Ohio, and even Patton's army there in France. And he took his responsibility in the Army with characteristic good humor.

His work demanded that he clear land mines left by the Germans – something he did carefully but without much anxiety. When a mine was found, he removed it to a place of safety where it would be detonated without harm. On a crisp November day, Billy Renstrom was pulling a land mine to safety with a rope when it caught on something. A gentle tug by the soldier brought an explosion that would plunge him into darkness. Billy was blinded!

I met Billy when I was a teenager. He and his wife Ruby traveled with my father in revival meetings. And it is perhaps strange, but I never thought of him as blind or handicapped. He was special. He seemed to be able to see and perceive just about everything. He did, in fact, have partial sight restored more than

thirty years after that dark day in France. His restored sight came through a miraculous operation at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville. But it did not really change him. He was still the same humble, friendly, loving, humorous, perceptive gentleman he had always been. Blindness had not taken that from him, and his enhanced sight simply bolstered his character.

In his life, he served as an assistant pastor, pastor, evangelist, and singer. He is probably best known for his unusual, clear, and beautiful tenor voice. That guy could sing! With Ruby playing the piano, he could sing out notes that sounded as if they were three floors above the observation deck on the Empire State Building!

Mary and I took the privileged opportunity to see Billy and Ruby every year. We would meet at a Red Lobster for dinner and remember all the things we had done, heard, and seen together. It was always great. In August, Mary and I, along with Wil and Sena and the kids, went to church with Billy and Ruby and then



to a restaurant for lunch. He was failing in health—we knew that, but I'm not sure he did! He always seemed to see beyond sad circumstances.

Early this past Monday morning, Billy stood up from his bed and walked into the very presence of the Lord Jesus.

Throughout the day on Monday, as friends all over the nation heard the

news that Billy was in heaven, many are certain to have said, "Now Billy can see!" There is truth to that statement, of course, but I don't believe Billy ever lived a day when he couldn't.

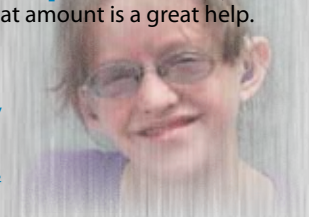
CAMPERSHIPS NEEDED!

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.

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



Needs at the Ranch

- **Pneumatic rock drill**
- **3-point sprayer with 200 gallon tank for spraying pastures**
- **6 foot T-posts** (new or used, up to 150)
- **3-point landscape rake, 7' maximum width** (for cinder road upkeep 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

Summer Camp Recruiting Update While many summer positions are filled, we are still in need of a summer nurse (RN, paramedic, PA, etc.) and men and lady counselors (having completed two-semester of Christian college). Several other operational staff positions including cooks assistants and grounds are also available for high school graduates. **For more information, contact the Bill Rice Ranch Recruiting Department by emailing recruitment@billriceranch.org or calling 800.253.RICE, ext. 105.**

THE RANCH is PEOPLE

Training People to Help Others

 by Evangelist Troy Carlson

You get the feeling from Nathan Reeves that he enjoys doing what he does. You would have to in order to keep at it! Nathan is the administrator of Bill Rice Christian Academy which serves K5-6th grades. He also directs the Ranch's summer junior camps. These positions translate into working with children twelve months out of the year. On top of that, Nathan and his wife also head up their local church's Wednesday night Kids' Club program.

Nathan notes that he has always enjoyed being around kids but that God used the Ranch to develop his heart for them and to confirm His calling to work with them. As an Elementary Education major in college, Nathan came to the Ranch as a counselor and saw his abilities grow. He credits his experiences at the Ranch for helping him to develop the ability to control groups of kids and teaching him how to apply biblical truth on a child's level. Understanding authority has also helped him with his own home as he and Jennifer raise three boys.

Whether he is being referred to as Mr. Reeves (school year), Mr. Nate (summer camp), or Dad (home), Nathan is constantly influencing the lives of children. He comments, "I get to be involved in seeing dozens of kids saved each year. While I get to lead very few of them to Christ personally, I have a part in each salvation. Also, we see hundreds of young people

make life-altering decisions. I know there will be better Christians and churches one day because of the help that was given to these kids today."

While Nathan has much individual contact with children, he also affects them by guiding staff members through their responsibilities. Whether dealing with school teachers or summer counselors, Nathan has been able to see young adults grow in the Lord and in their abilities while they are helping the children.

Concerning summer junior camp counselors, Nathan remarks, "I enjoy seeing these young people grow. Some come with more skills than others do, but they all leave with more than they had when they came." Recalling a less naturally skilled group of counselors one year, he "was thrilled to watch these counselors, who thought they couldn't do much, serve in ways they had never done before."

Nathan exemplifies the heart that Bill Rice Ranch staff members have to help young people and to train others to work with young people. Having been helped ourselves, we desire to pass that help on to others. Do you know a 17-20 year-old high school graduate (by July) who could benefit from a two-week ministry internship this summer? With God's help, we look forward to seeing the Lord grow many more young people with a heart to serve Him and to help others.



BACK AT THE RANCH...

Serving on the Road, Preparing at Home

The Ranch has completed four conferences already this spring, yet none of them have been in Tennessee! The Florida Regional Youth Conference was held near Tampa on February 4. The **Arizona Regional Conference on Marriage and the Home** ① saw an attendance of 336 in late February with 17 churches participating. We also held similar conferences in Lubbock, Texas, and Thomasville, Georgia, in March. In January and February, Nathan McConnell completed two sign language schools in Alabama and California.

In the meantime, men came to the Ranch from Clinton, Tennessee, and Logansport, Indiana, to volunteer their time and abilities. They accomplished much work including the **repair of the John R. Rice Auditorium roof** ② and various electrical projects. We also recently enhanced our athletic and activity programs with the purchases of additional bleachers for the ball fields and a 52-foot inflatable obstacle course to be used in camps this summer.

Our annual local **men's work day is April 21**. ③ Can you come join us? If you're too far away, maybe you could let someone else closer to us know about it. Give them a call or contact them via Facebook or Twitter. Also let friends know about our **Open House, Saturday, April 28**. ④ This event introduces the Ranch to our neighbors in Rutherford County.



New Opportunity!

Ministry INTERNSHIP

Preparing for the future while investing in others!

Session I: July 8-20 **Session II:** July 15-27 **Cost:** \$100

Since every ministry must have dedicated believers in order to thrive, the need to develop surrendered young people for present and future service opportunities is great. Our burden to help others and our years of experience in revival work make the Bill Rice Ranch an ideal training ground for such young people.

The Ministry Internship is a two-week program for high school graduates ages 17-20 that blends classroom instruction and hands-on experience to prepare young people for future service. Our goal is to help interns understand not only what we do but also why we do it (our camp philosophy). Individuals who recognize the importance of this Christ-centered philosophy of ministry will be a greater help in any ministry endeavor, especially within his or her local church.

First Week—classroom instruction, daily observation, nightly services

Second Week—hands-on involvement in Youth (ages 12-19), Junior (ages 8-12), or Deaf (ages 9-19) Camp programs

For a brochure or application packet, email your name and address to internship@billriceranch.org or call 800.253.RICE, ext.105.

An **ALL-DAY** teen activity **your youth group will NOT want to miss!**



★ **MAY 5** ★

Calendar OF EVENTS

SEASONAL RETREATS

Day of Champions **May 5**

Father/Son Adventure **May 18-19**

Sign Language School **Aug. 22-25**

Elementary Retreat 1 **Aug. 24-25**

Elementary Retreat 2 **Sept. 7-8**

Junior High Retreat **Sept. 17-19**

Ladies' Retreat **Oct. 11-13**

Men's Challenge **Nov. 2-3**

Conference on Marriage & the Home **Nov. 29-Dec. 1**

REGIONAL EVENTS

Conferences on Marriage & the Home
Dayton, OH **April 20-21**

Gallup, NM **October 5-6**

Ladies Spring Getaway
Flagstaff, AZ **April 21**

Youth Conference
Phoenix, AZ **September 8**

Men on the Move
Fort Collins, CO **October 26-27**

Youth Conference
Santa Maria, CA **November 10**

SUMMER CAMPS

June 10-August 2

Combined Youth, Junior, and Deaf Camps.
Family Camps & Deaf Adult Conference

Independence Day Retreat **July 4**