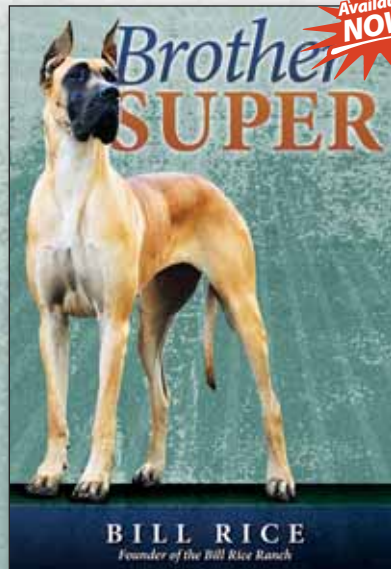




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June-July 2012, Vol. 51—No. 3



From the President

Who Will Write Your Story?

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

While World War II is the historical context in which most people see Winston Churchill, the reason he is remembered at all is not because of what happened to him but because of what he caused to happen. Churchill had never been a man passively waiting for history to hand him his script. He was a man of action. As he stated, "History will be kind to me for I intend to write it."

While history's best actors may have been people who played their roles well, they were also people who acted on the best scripts. Think of Daniel. He was handed two competing scripts, neither of them offered in the midst of ideal conditions. The conquering king of Babylon took Daniel from his home to distant Babylon where he fed, taught, and even named Daniel in an attempt to make him conform to Babylon's script.

While Daniel had few powers as a slave, he did have the power that belongs to each of us: he had the power of choice. Daniel must have realized that God had made him intentionally for a purpose. Daniel had the choice to passively accept the script Babylon handed him or to actively live the life God made him to live, even there in Babylon.

As you probably know, even in captivity Daniel lived with more purpose and power than the kings he outlived. Daniel's influence spanned kings and kingdoms because he lived up to his potential. He did this by living up to God's purpose for him rather than living down to the world's expectations.

God rules in the affairs of people and nations, and there is a big difference between being a person of faith and being a victim of fate. Do not allow a pious passivity to replace an active faith to launch out and play your part in dependence on God. This active faith is especially crucial in your own home.

A godly and earnest father was once asked how he could be certain that his kids would turn out well. "Because I am raising them," was his reply. That statement would be arrogance

on his part if it were based on his own ability, but the statement was faith in action if it was based upon God's ability. As it turns out, he wasn't so much saying, "I intend to write our story" as he was saying, "I intend to act on the Scriptures God gave us with the confidence that He will honor His Word."

Do any of us suppose that we want our children to be saved more than God does? Would anyone presume to say that there is a parent on earth who wants his or her children to be godly more than God Himself wants that? Do you think that the world's system is anything other than ruthlessly active in their pursuit of your family? No!

Then the question today is, "Who will write your story?" If we are really living by faith, then we don't have to accept the world's script. We can act on God's.

www.billriceranch.org



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by Evangelist Bill Rice III

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by Evangelist Troy Carlson

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“There is a **BIG DIFFERENCE**
between being a person of *faith*
and being a victim of *fate*.”





Definition of a Re·bel

(n. reb'-əl, see below)

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

Joshua 24:15: *“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

What is a rebel? Let me ask you to try to picture one. Allow me to give the parameters. This rebel is eighteen, and his parents are Independent Baptists!

What does he think about abortion? What does he think about sex outside of marriage, social drinking, and the kind of friends he chooses? The answers should be simple to find.

Though Independent Baptists are independent and therefore not necessarily a monolithic group, it is still true that their answers to the above questions would be fairly consistent. So all one needs to do to determine this rebel's answers would be to know the answers of his parents. So what are his parent's answers?

Parents and abortion? No! Parents and impu-

riety? No! Parents and social drinking? No! His friends? They must be godly.

The rebel, by definition, would differ. Abortion? Sure. Sex outside of marriage? In some circumstances, yes. Drinking? Come on, it is 2012! And his friends? His friends are his friends. He is not judgmental!

You see, he is a rebel, and he is opposed to a certain set of beliefs. In his case, he rebels against the convictions of his family, church, or (most importantly) his parents.

The question is, does he “do his own thing” or is he following – is he serving a master? Is he independent or part of a group? After all, he is a rebel. He may be a rebel, but he is also very much a follower. Frankly, he is a servant. A rebel is “**anyone who serves the wrong master**”! Everybody serves a master. Everybody! I am opposed to social drinking, for example, because I really believe the Lord

is. Others are opposed to abstinence when it comes to alcohol, because those whom they admire, follow, and, yes, serve believe that total abstinence is wrong. I am not saying that there cannot be legitimate differences between thinking people. There are. And these differences are often determined by the master they follow.

Joshua didn't say choose whether or not you will serve, because everyone already serves a master. His instruction to God's people was to decide which master they would follow and serve. They could serve the gods of Egypt, the gods of the Amorites, or the God Jehovah. They could choose the master but could not choose whether or not they would serve. The same is true of us. We cannot choose whether or not to serve. Our choice is only deciding which master we will follow.

How often I've met people who claim that they follow no one – that they march to the beat of their own drummer; but their speech, appearance, friends, likes, and dislikes reveal that they follow and who they follow. They serve a master but often not The Master.

When you do not follow and serve God, you will follow and serve a god. The choice is yours. Be a rebel, or serve the right master.

FROM

West Branch

by Evangelist Troy Carlson

Serving in Every Season

Imagine snowflakes, autumn leaves, and flip flops all part of the same decorating scheme. This decorating scheme would be a bit odd were the theme of the retreat not “Serving in Every Season.” April in Northern Arizona lends itself to a ladies event theme like this. We never know what the weather may be like; it could seem like spring, summer, or winter!

This year it could have been summer—at least a summer at 7,000 feet elevation. The temperature was almost 80 degrees during our Ladies Spring Getaway in Flagstaff. That is the warmest ladies retreat day I can ever recall. During other years, the ladies have driven home with an inch or two of snow falling. You just never know.

During the Ladies Spring Getaway, attended by over 120 ladies, each speaker taught that God has a way for us to serve regardless of the season of life in which we find ourselves. There are certain principles about serving the Lord that are always true, no matter the season. Accompanying these messages, we had a number of games and giveaways that reflected our theme. While one lady may have gone home with a Christmas tree, another lady may have taken home Easter candy or summer kitchen décor. It was a lot of fun to weave the different seasons into one day.

Lunch reflected the theme as well. The ladies en-

joyed a special dessert—a bite from every season. Four little sweets represented each part of the year. The ladies of our host church, Northland Baptist, also decked the place out with harvest, snow, garden, and picnic scenes. It was great!

Seasons remind me of the faithfulness of God. Genesis 8:22 says, “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” God is a sovereign God; He can do what He wants to do. But He has chosen to limit Himself in ways we can expect. We call these limitations His *promises*. One of those promises is the continual cycle of seasons as long as this earth remains. Because of God's faithful promises, we can serve Him in any season, trusting Him.

As we approach another calendar season, the summer, we are preparing for another season of ministry. Upcoming is our fourth annual Arizona Youth Challenge. We encourage youth pastors to use this program to motivate their young people to stay active for Christ during the summer. In the three previous contests, teenagers have memorized 7,337 verses, distributed 16,005 tracts, and brought 559 visitors to church. We are also planning four events in four states this fall.

In whatever season you find yourself, the Lord has work for you to do. It's a job you *can* do because it is a job *He* can do. He is faithful, and you can trust Him and serve Him in any season.

BACK AT THE RANCH...

Champions, Marriages, and Hard Work



We held the **2nd annual Day of Champions** on Saturday, May 5. Twenty-two churches brought just over three hundred young people to the all-day youth event. One young man trusted Christ as his Savior while many more responded to draw closer to the Lord.

The Ranch also held the **Ohio Regional Conference on Marriage and the Home** hosted by Bethel Baptist Church in West Carrollton, Ohio, April 20-21. This was the fourth of six such conferences conducted by the Ranch this year.



Our yearly local **Men's Work Day** was **April 21**. Thirty-eight men joined Ranch staff men to complete fourteen projects around camp. Projects included repairing the pool fence, several cabins, and the game room tables, as well as assembling new bleachers for the ball fields, roofing Cowboy Town awnings, clearing brush, and painting the new sanitation building. Groups of men from Kentucky and Tennessee also recently came to work on similar projects. Thank you to all these friends. “Many hands make light work!”



On Saturday, April 28, we welcomed **over 400 neighbors to our open house**. Along with providing campground tours and free pony rides and refreshments, we registered over thirty children for our upcoming local Day Camp and scheduled tours of Bill Rice Christian Academy.

Evangelist Nathan McConnell led **four deaf rallies** this spring in New Jersey, South Carolina, and Oklahoma, with over 400 in attendance and 5 saved through these efforts.

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

New Opportunity!

Ministry

Two-week

INTERNSHIP

Preparing for the future while investing in others!

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

For high school graduates ages 17-20

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**.

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 9**, 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
Level 1	\$50 gift	one counselor for one week
Level 2	\$135 gift	one CORE position for the summer
Level 3	\$270 gift	one operational staff member for the summer
Level 4	\$450 gift	one counselor for the summer

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.

The Perfect Family Vacation FAMILY CAMP

WEEK I
July 1-5

WEEK II
July 29–Aug. 2

Still time to reserve your spot!



Calendar OF EVENTS

SUMMER CAMPS

Youth I/ Ju I/ Deaf I. **June 10-15**
Day Camp **June 18-22**
You II/ Ju II/ Deaf II. **June 24-29**
Family I/ Ju III. **July 1-5**
Independence Day Retreat. **July 4**
Youth III/ Junior IV/ Deaf III. **July 8-13**
Youth IV/ Junior V/ Deaf IV. **July 15-20**
Youth V/ Junior VI/ Deaf V. **July 22-27**
Family II/ Deaf Adult Conf. **July 29-Aug. 2**

SEASONAL RETREATS

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

Youth Conference
Phoenix, AZ. **September 8**
Conference on Marriage & the Home
Gallup, NM. **October 5-6**
Men on the Move
Fort Collins, CO. **October 26-27**
Youth Conference
Santa Maria, CA. **November 10**