



*From the President*

## What to Do When You Are a Mountain-loving Heights-hater

*by Evangelist Wil Rice IV*



**I** was born with a healthy fear of altitude; I hate heights.

When I was a baby, I'd cry whenever someone over 5' 3" would try to pick me up. I am firmly bound by "the surly bonds of earth."

So, why is it that so much of what I love requires getting in above my head...way above my head? I love to hike Grand Canyon. I love mountains, big ones. I am addicted to skiing, which means riding a ski lift high over the ground to a peak high above the valley.

I am fascinated by altitude in a way I recently recognized as kind of odd. I own a Garmin wrist-mounted GPS altimeter so I can know my height in any given location. I can tell you the elevations of my house, the base of the flagpole at camp, the top of Scales Mountain here on the Ranch, the base camp and summit of Mount Everest, and the general elevation of my favorite ski runs.

And yet, altitude scares me. In fact, the most frightening moments of my spring came because of altitude—and because of love. Let me tell you of just one such incident.

After finishing a week of revival meetings in California's Central Valley, Sena and I celebrated our twentieth wedding anniversary with two and a half days in the hill country some eighty miles from Yosemite National Park. Being a mountain-lover, I knew we would go to Yosemite. Being a heights-hater, I endured the hairiest, scariest drive of my life; and I'm not even joking!

The night before our drive to the park, I checked our route on the map. I also looked at the satellite view of the road to gauge the kind of country we would cross on our way. It was obviously mountainous and possibly "interesting," given the little squiggly lines that indicated numerous hairpin curves. Hairpins betray rapid elevation gain within a short space. I braced myself.

The first hour of our drive was picture-perfect, pretty without being threatening. Then we crossed a bridge that spanned a chasm. I vaguely

remember a sign giving some sort of friendly warning. Then we braved an incline, a road that cut into the side of a mountain and led on with an ambition to split the sky, and with eight miles of switchbacks and heartburn.

Do you remember how time stands still when you are waiting for the dentist, or when you are expecting the other shoe to drop? Now give that thought some caffeine. Eight miles at fifteen miles an hour is a long time, longer than what you can measure on your watch. At times, the sparse signs that had enough space to stand on the narrow incline limited our speed to ten miles an hour, as if I would be tempted to go faster!

Now, don't misunderstand me, it was gorgeous! The gorge to our right dropped into infinity. It was so "beautiful" that I wanted to close my eyes. I couldn't shut my eyes, and I just couldn't look! When we arrived at Yosemite, I was thrilled to be at the park and thrilled not to be on the road.

The kicker is, I would probably do it all over again. Fear makes good brakes, but love makes a good driver. I noticed this spring that some of my fears seem to have heightened, no pun intended, with age. My fear of heights seems to have sharpened, yes, but also a fear of a world full of dangers and pitfalls. The news serves up new fears by the hour to our digital devices which never seem to tire of overwhelming us with information we cannot process.

The question is, will I, will we, be driven by love or fear? I have prayed this spring that my life would not be driven by fear. I carefully risked that route to Yosemite because of love. I love big country, and I love my wife much more! I look back to that day with fondness.

I do not think that it is always inherently noble to do the things we fear most. Some fear is healthy. But I do believe that fear is best conquered when there is a reason to fight. As a believer, a father, and an American, I need the grace of God to do what is right even when it is scary. When we love the Lord and the things He values, our lives are driven by a force stronger than danger and, ultimately, safer than inaction.



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Visit **billriceranch.org** for photos, videos, registration forms, and exciting opportunities!





# Say What You Mean

by Evangelist Bill Rice III

It was a beautiful day in January. And if you are wondering how that could be possible, I will give you the answer. Mary and I were in Florida for meetings. The temperature was in the 70s. The sun was shining, and there was no prospect of rain. In other words, it was a perfect time to get my car washed.

I drove into a gas station, parked the car, and walked inside. The gentleman inside was young, pleasant looking, and very friendly. It became obvious, however, that English was not his first language; and it may not have been his second!

"I would like a car wash," I said.

"Okay."

"How much are they?" I asked.

"Two dollah – thrree dollah!"

"Do they both have blowers?" I asked. My car wasn't filthy, just dusty. All I needed was to have it washed and then dried. When I asked the question, he looked at me quizzically.

"You know," I said, "blowers." And then I held my hands out in front of me, palms down, and made a sound I thought would pass for a fan drying my car.

"Ooouuu," I said.

"Both seime," he said.

"Both are the same?" I asked.

"Yes, both seime."

"Why is one two dollars and one three?" I asked.

"Three dollah beegerr," he answered.

I figured "beegeer" meant more soap. I did not need that.

"I'll take the two dollar wash,"

I said.

He took my payment, gave me a receipt, and then gave me the little ticket with the numbers on it that I would need to "punch in" the correct car wash. I thanked him, left the station, got into my car, and drove around back to the car wash itself. Lowering my window, I took the ticket to punch in the numbers to start the wash.

I looked at the ticket. There were a lot of numbers. I looked at the ticket a second time. Questions began popping up in the back of my mind. I looked at the ticket a third time, and then the light turned on. The gentleman in the convenience store with the very nice smile and interesting use of the English language had just sold me a Florida lottery ticket!

Can't wash the car with that! So I drove back to the store and walked in.

Holding up the lottery ticket I said, "I don't want this ticket; I want a car wash." And then I repeated myself for clarity, "I want a car wash."

"How much is a car wash?" I asked.

"Five dollah," he said.

"I will take one." And then I added, "I don't



want the lottery ticket; could I have my money back for that?"

"No," he said. "Cannot give money back for lottery, but is worth fourrrr hundrred eighty-five million dollah!"

Now I know I do not need to say this, but I want to. Clear communication is very important! And since we are concerned about clarity, no I did not win.

I simply gave the state of Florida two bucks!

Many wonderful things could be said about the Bible. Most of the things I might say, you would already know and would doubtless agree with them. But one of the most thrilling things about the Bible, to me, is its clarity.

Do you want to know how to get to heaven? The Bible has a simple and clear explanation. Do you want to be the right kind of spouse? Read the Bible, and you will see the answer. Do you want to raise godly kids? Do you want to work with integrity and trustworthiness? Honestly, it is not difficult to understand what God says about any of these matters.

Colossians 3:20 says, "Children, obey your parents in all things...." Do you think a child would understand what that verse means? It is, after all, addressed to children. It is simple, direct, and very clear.

Whenever one thinks, "The Bible is so hard for me to understand," we should always know where the problem is. Yes, the Bible demands our study; but it will always be clear. The communication is direct and precise. What is always needed is an open and listening heart.

## BACK AT THE RANCH...



New York City Trip



Men's Work Day



Open House



The Webber Auditorium is in need of an interior paint job, and we would like to complete this upgrade before the summer. The cost is \$1,500. Any small or large gift to help meet this need will be greatly appreciated! If mailing a check, simply write "Webber Auditorium" on the memo line.

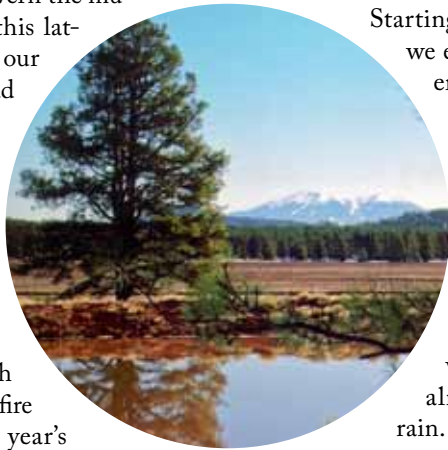


For any questions, please contact Matt Downs, 615-893-2767, ext. 105 or [mtdowns@billriceranch.org](mailto:mtdowns@billriceranch.org).



# Showers of Blessings

Water is always a concern here in Northern Arizona. The water table in our immediate area is about 3,500 feet deep. That brings many challenges to those who govern the municipal water supplies. In this latest round of local drought, our own city of Williams has had strict water management in place for more than a year. A late winter rain and snow storm dumped about four inches of moisture on the area, bringing reservoirs back up and turning usually dry washes into flowing streams. We'll take it! Each summer usually brings some fire danger. Lord willing, this year's season will not be as dangerous as others.



bit parched, the Lord brings a shower or two of answered prayer. Perhaps the shower is more like a monsoon!

Starting around the fourth of July, we experience what local weathermen call the monsoon period. If you are thinking of the drenching rain of India and the like, you are a bit off track. Sometimes the monsoon means it is just cloudy. At its best, rains will roll in for an hour or two each day for several weeks. Some years, you can almost set your clock by the rain.

This is the spiritual monsoon weather we have experienced this spring. While we are still working toward having seven cabins fully online with water, sanitation, and electricity for two summer camp weeks of ninety or so campers, there have already been periods of regular sustained blessing from the Lord. I can think of one such week in which every day seemed to bring

It seems that sometimes the Lord's blessings move like weather patterns. You may go day to day for a while without any "newsworthy" showers of blessings. (Of course, we realize each day and each breath are provided from His hand!) Yet, sometimes when our own spirit may be a

news of an additional donation to our electrical project. Right in the midst of the same week, a piano was donated to us. "Showers" like these are so refreshing as you serve the Lord.

Several times this spring God has given obvious favor with local officials. A bit further back, we put out an appeal to help us double what we had raised toward the sanitation work. In just a few weeks, that fund more than doubled, even as the total expected cost dropped significantly from \$280,000 to \$125,000. Our total infrastructure costs to get all our current buildings online are now less than what we thought the sanitation alone would be!

My good friend, Pastor Richard Coyle, once shared with me this verse: Psalm 68:9, "Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary." I have prayed for that rain many times, and our gracious God has often provided it. As you read this, we are in the last few weeks of preparation for our summer camps. With much to do, we could use another round of showers. Would you pray to that end? And always remember that God's spiritual weather patterns are perfect.

Visit [www.westbranchAZ.org](http://www.westbranchAZ.org) for the latest information on our campsite development.

Very soon, approximately **100 summer staff members** will arrive at the Ranch to volunteer their time as counselors, operational staff, and Ranch Hand 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 6**, 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
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>\$50</b> gift	one counselor for one week
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>\$135</b> gift	one Ranch Hand position for the summer
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>\$270</b> gift	one operational staff member for the summer
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>\$450</b> 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.

## Calendar OF EVENTS

### SPRING RETREAT

Father & Son Adventure.....**May 15-16**

### SUMMER CAMPS:

Youth I/ Jun<sup>FULL</sup>/ Deaf I .....**June 7-12**  
 Day Camp .....**June 15-19**  
 Youth II/ Junior II/ Deaf II .....**June 21-26**  
 Family I .....**June 29-July 3**  
 Independence Day Retreat.....**July 3**  
 Youth III/ Junior III/ Deaf III .....**July 5-10**  
 Youth IV/ Junior IV/ Deaf IV.....**July 12-17**  
 You<sup>FULL</sup>/ Junic<sup>FULL</sup>/ Deaf V.....**July 19-24**  
 Family II/ Deaf Adult Camp.....**July 26-30**  
 Deaf Adult & Interpreters' Retreat...**July 30**

### FALL RETREATS

Elementary Retreat 1.....**Aug. 27-28**  
 Elementary Retreat 2.....**Sept. 11-12**  
 Junior High Retreat .....**Sept. 14-16**  
 Ladies' Retreat.....**Oct. 8-10**  
 Men's Challenge.....**Nov. 5-7**  
 Conference on Marriage  
 & the Home .....**Dec. 3-5**





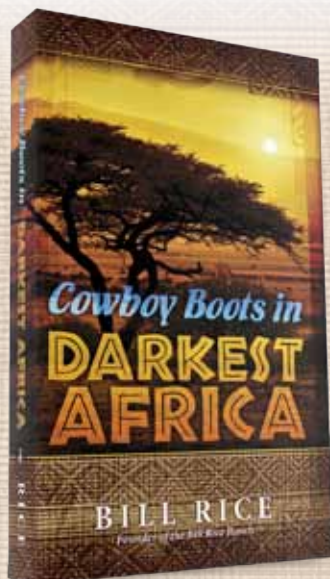
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Whatever life was for Evangelist Bill Rice, it certainly was not boring!

With two Bibles, two six-guns, two cameras, and accompanied by his missionary friend, Rice preached six months of evangelistic meetings in the heart of Africa. Tangles with wild animals, confrontations with hostile spearmen, and a trek into uncharted pygmy territory are only a few of his adventures as he sought to win the hearts of Africans to Christ!

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or visit our website **www.billriceranch.org**

### **Independence Day** RETREAT **July 3**

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Enjoy great preaching, swimming, a rodeo, two meals, Cowboy Town, and spectacular fireworks!



**FAMILY CAMP**

WEEK I  
**June 29-July 3**

(Dave Hardy & Wayne Hardy)

WEEK II  
**July 26-30**

(John Van Gelderen & Jim Cook)

### AND LADIES' RETREAT *Wonders OF HIS Love*

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Host Speakers:

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Wil & Sena Rice**

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