



From the President

Helping Make Camp Happen Since 1968

by Evangelist Wil Rice IV

When I was a kid growing up here on the Ranch, the big kids I looked up to were the teenage young men who served tables, mowed grass, and wrangled horses: the Ranch Hands. They had arrived! To me, they seemed to be old and independent, doing a man's work on a ranch far from their own homes. That life all seemed far into the distant future to me.

Becoming a Ranch Hand myself felt much like it would feel in subsequent years when I graduated from high school or when I married Sena. I was a little shocked to have come so far as to experience this milestone in my own life! But I got used to the idea; and after a week of full days, teamwork, and the camaraderie of Ranch Hand life, it didn't seem foreign anymore. I didn't just have the official shirt – I was a Ranch Hand!

After my first summer, I never saw things quite the same way again. Every time I saw a large dining room, my mind would quickly calculate how many place settings there were, how many dirty dishes would result, and how much work it would be for someone to clean. When Mom gave me some chore to do around the house, it did not seem quite as big a task as once it had! I made friends and learned skills that would serve me well in my other roles on the Ranch and in life.

Then something began to change, slowly at first. I came to see Ranch Hands as hard-working peers, not some group of "big kids" doing work I could never do. Next, I became a

veteran Ranch Hand, helping some of the "new guys" learn the ropes. Eventually, I became a Summer Staff Counselor, a college student who felt appreciation for the young guys who were serving with us for their first summer as Ranch Hands.

And now...I am the father of a Ranch Hand. Ranch Hands are younger than they have ever been before! Or, maybe not. In my desk is a group photo of the Ranch Hands with whom I served my second summer. We looked just as young as did many of the fresh faces who showed up this past summer! Maybe I am just a little older.

How we thank God for the young people – Ranch Hands, counselors, and operational staff – who served with us this summer! I admire their faith to serve when they knew they would not be making very much money for college. I appreciate their stamina to serve week after week, often in tasks that people would only think about if they were not being done. And I appreciate their joy in serving campers from across the country. We could not have had the fantastic summer we enjoyed without the Summer Staff!

This year, "old" Ranch Hands have come as family campers; they have preached at Junior and Teen Camp; they pastor churches which we are privileged to serve; and now, two of them live in my house. One of them remembers the good old days, and one of them plans to work alongside Ranch Hands again in the summer of 2016!



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



The Past, Present, and Future

by *Evangelist Bill Rice III*

Victory Baptist Church is in North Central Florida. Pastor Charles Ashley is a friend of the ministries of the Bill Rice Ranch. If you know Pastor Ashley, his friendship makes sense. He is from California, and his parents were deaf!

When he was in Bible college, he met Ronnie Rice. Ronnie is my brother and is an evangelist. Ronnie Rice also happens to be deaf, and so Pastor Ashley has Ronnie just about every year in his church to speak to his hearing people.

Mary and I usually have a service in the church with a team from the Ranch, as well. Pastor Ashley has us in and then takes an offering for the Campership Fund, the fund that provides a free week at camp for deaf young people. We are usually there on a Wednesday night, but this last year the team and I were there for a Sunday morning service.

In the service, Pastor Ashley stood and told this story.

"I love tacos," he said, "and Saturday I decided to grab lunch at Taco Bell!"

I would hasten to say that Taco Bell is not one of my favorite eating establishments, but Pastor Ashley most certainly loves tacos better than I and likes to stop in at Taco Bell occasionally for a taco or an enchilada.

"When I walked into Taco Bell," he continued, "I immediately saw a nice looking couple sitting in the restaurant, and they were signing."

Well, Pastor Ashley knows sign language very well because of the deafness of his parents. So, he introduced himself to the couple and began chatting with them.

He told them that he often had a deaf evangelist preach in the church where he was the pastor. He learned that they were from Louisiana. Then, remembering that I would be with him the following morning for a service, he said, "Hey, Bill Rice is going to be with me tomorrow. Have you ever heard of the Bill Rice Ranch?"

The young lady spoke up, "Yes, I know about the Bill Rice Ranch. I was saved there as a teenager!"

A church in Louisiana whose people were burdened for those who are deaf, had brought a busload of deaf young people to the Bill Rice Ranch. As a teenager at the Ranch, she heard the gospel and trusted Christ as Savior. I can tell you, this is a story I will not soon forget!

One of the greatest blessings of this ministry is seeing how the Lord has blessed in days past and continues to answer prayer and work in the

hearts and lives of campers today. Last week, two of the preachers speaking here on the Ranch gave their lives to the Lord as teenagers here.

This week, one of the speakers here was greatly influenced to live for the Lord when he worked here as a summer staff counselor some time ago.

On Tuesday night, I was meeting young people who were responding to the message they had just heard by coming forward in order to meet with a counselor and pray. The second or third young person I met was twelve years old. He was weeping as he told me the reason for which he was responding in the service.

I had met him earlier in the day. The gentleman introducing me to him had said, "Do you know who this is?"

Well, no I didn't; but I would learn. "This is"

He gave me the name of a preacher I know very well. This preacher was the young man's grandfather. Standing in the auditorium, I remembered when his grandfather also made important decisions here on the Ranch. I had to smile to myself. Should I be thankful for what God has done in the past? Should I be thankful for what God is doing now? Or should I be thankful for what the Lord is providing for in the future? The answer is pretty simple.

Yes.



BACK AT THE RANCH...



What a great summer! We thank the Lord for the 184 Bill Rice Ranch campers and 11 West Branch campers who trusted Christ for salvation and for over 2,500 decisions that were made this summer.

Living a Miracle

It was sometime in the middle of our youth camp in June when I suddenly had this thought: "We are living a miracle!" MANY things had to "fall into place" in order for our first full-sized camp on the Williams site to happen. On that day in June, I realized the Lord had "felled" each of them in perfect order, just as a lumberjack takes down one tree at a time. As a matter of fact, I will now admit that there were several days here and there, stretching from November all the way through late May, when I thought that we had finally hit the one snag that would keep camp from happening. But camp happened, and there is no doubt that God was the One Who made it happen.

There were quite a few things that we were required to do or have in order for local officials to allow us to have this week of camp in which we temporarily used cabins which do not have the sanitation or water connected to them yet. Portable chemical toilets, hot and cold water

sinks, fire protection water, lidded trash cans, a kitchen commissary: all of these things and more were needed. During junior camp, one pastor looked around, saw all this special equipment, and said, "You guys sure went through a lot of trouble to have camp for us!" Fair enough. There was much to line up, and some of the items were easier to come by than others.



Unquestionably, the biggest challenge was the food preparation plan. It became clear by mid-March that the way to fix meals to the satisfaction of local officials was to purchase a new concessions trailer. Locally, the time to produce one was too long (and the cost too expensive!); but in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, an outfit could make a nice one at a reasonable price in eight weeks. When you consider the nine-day trip to get it back to Arizona, an inspection six days before camp started, and the need to raise all the money for it, there was a lot that could have gone wrong. But they didn't. God provided the miracle we needed...once again.

NEED FOCUS

Have you seen the inside of the **Webber Auditorium** lately?

Thanks to many people who gave financially and to the hard-working group from Fostoria Baptist Church, the auditorium underwent a beautiful transformation this spring. Hundreds of campers this summer enjoyed this lighter, brighter interior because of generous and caring friends of the Ranch.



Have you seen the outside of the **John R. Rice Auditorium** lately?

It could really use a fresh coat of paint! As the central focus of the campground, we would like its outer shell to properly represent the wonderful things that happen inside its doors. We intend to modify its color to match the new Ranch color scheme: tans, browns, and greens. **Could you help us?** The estimated cost of this project is \$3,000.



West Branch has always been a miracle. Since the late '80s when God dropped the Flagstaff property into our laps, He has been providing miracle after miracle. It was a miracle that we sold the old site at the top of the real estate market. It was a miracle when God opened up a decade of ministry through **West Branch on the Move** while we kept working on the facility. It was a miracle that we had camp this summer!

As this thought came into my mind during youth camp, I realized that the whole reason God provided these miracles was so that we could witness an even greater miracle this June during those two weeks of camp. What miracle? The miracle of eleven young people being saved, born into God's family!

No doubt, we will need more miracles. After all, we still need the sanitation and water systems installed. But this ministry belongs to the God of miracles, so we keep praying... for more miracles, like the ones He has already done.

Visit **www.westbranchAZ.org** for the latest information on our campsite development.



Calendar OF EVENTS

FALL RETREATS

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

REGIONAL EVENTS

Youth Conference	
Peoria, AZ	Sept. 12
Men on the Move	
Fort Collins, CO	Oct 16-17

On Thursday, **July 30**, we graduated eight young people at our first ever **Bill Rice Bible Institute graduation**. Several are planning to attend Christian colleges this year. We are thrilled with how God worked in the lives of these students.





Bill Rice Ranch, Inc.
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Cost: \$200 per couple (includes meals & lodging)

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

*Evangelist Bill Rice III
Evangelist Wil Rice IV*



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