



## Inside this issue

### A Christmas to Remember

*by Evangelist Bill Rice III*

### Back at the Ranch

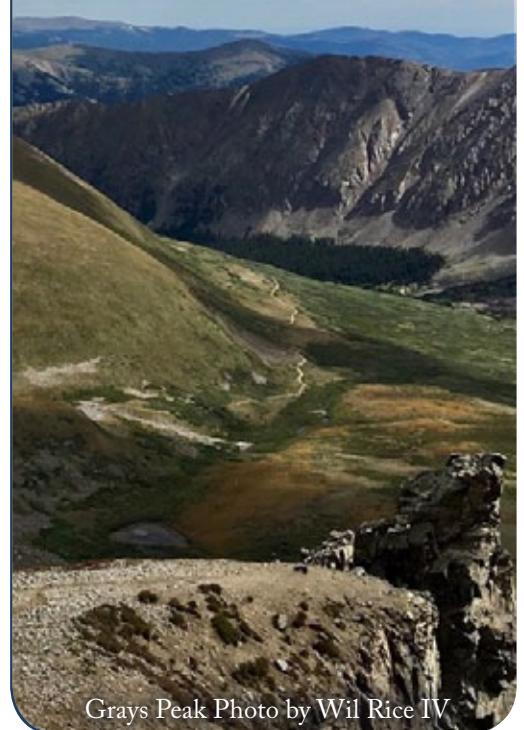
Retreat Photos & Need Focus

### From West Branch

New Year's Revival

*by Evangelist Troy Carlson*

“...your CLIMBING to the summit won't matter if you climb the WRONG mountain.”



Grays Peak Photo by Wil Rice IV



*From the President*

## What Mountains Will You Summit?

*by Evangelist Wil Rice IV*

The Dream was born one year ago in August.

My family and I were at the opening meeting for the incoming students at Bill Rice Bible Institute when my daughter Lauren struck up a conversation with a student from Colorado.

Kristen had Lauren's complete attention when she began talking about one of our family's favorite topics: big mountains. My mom was born and reared in Denver, and I have passed along a love for hiking, skiing, and all things mountainous to my kids. It is by turns flattering and frightening to see how well I have brainwashed my children!

At any rate, that night Lauren got an idea that grew from a question into a determination and then a plan: she was going to summit a "14er." A 14er, as you may know, is a mountain that is 14,000 feet or more above sea level. For a little context, my house on the Ranch sits about 650 feet above sea level.

"Dad," Lauren asked after the service, "do you think I could hike a 14er?"

"Yes, I believe you could," I replied, not knowing the force of nature I had just unleashed.

"Do you think we could try that sometime?" Lauren persisted.

"Surely!" I blurted.

And that is how we ended up quietly making the approach to Grays Peak in the cold pre-dawn of August 24. My wife Sena and son Wilson were also making this hike with us. We were all excited, but I was also mildly nervous. Grays has very little "exposure," but all it takes is going off one cliff one time to ruin your entire day. And I am a dad. Would the kids have the endurance to summit? Did Lauren really know what she was asking for?

I had no need to be concerned. As morning dawned, my kids hammered it while carrying on a robust conversation. They sang, talked, laughed, and talked some more, while I kept my words in my mouth so I could concentrate on breathing.

On the summit, we could see the distant world from the highest point on Colorado's Continental Divide. We summited by God's grace, but we did not stand there by accident. We stood there in the wind, suspended between heaven and earth because of a goal, a plan, and hard work.

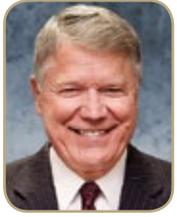


What mountains will you summit in 2018? This will never happen without a goal, a plan, and hard work. And your climbing to the summit won't matter if you climb the wrong mountain! Before we follow our ambitions in the New Year, it might be worth the time to consider what is really important in life and what aims are worth our time, the stuff of which life consists. For me, making a memory with my family was more important than standing above everyone else within a hundred miles.

At the Ranch, we are thrilled at the prospect of a New Year with all the young challenges and possibilities it brings with it. We are planning and praying for a new, second week of Day Camp outreach at the Ranch. We are excited about the new camp facilities that continue to be built at West Branch in Williams, Arizona. We are hoping to see our one thousandth person come to Christ at this year's sixteenth annual New York City outreach. And some of us are laying plans to summit our second 14er in August.

# A Christmas to Remember

by Evangelist Bill Rice III



It certainly surprised me. In fact, I can safely say that I was shocked. I was reminiscing one day over the Christmases of my childhood, trying to remember all of them, but only able to remember “special” ones.

There are several Christmases of which I have fond memories, and I am sure you could say the same thing about your own personal history. For example, I remember the Christmas in Wheaton, Illinois, when Kaye, my sister, got an electric train. I must have been about five at the time, and I could not understand why anyone would want to control a toy train with a transformer and a switch instead of pushing it around the track! My first love in those days was pushing toy cars and trucks all around the house, and I thought that you should treat an electric train in exactly the same manner. It didn't work, however. If Kaye was not around to take my clammy little hands off the train, my joy would come to a halt when the track would separate as a result of my pushing!

Then I remember well the Christmas when my brother Pete and I got BB air rifles. Our family had moved to Murfreesboro by that time and I was several years older than the aforementioned Christmas.

That air rifle was the first “real” gun I ever owned. I kept that air rifle for years and wish I had it now.

Then I remember the Christmas that Pete and I got bicycles. We lived on the Ranch then, and I must have been about eleven or twelve. The bikes had three speeds, and in those days we called them “English bikes.” I don't know how they would have held up in England, but with all the rocks here on the Ranch, they didn't last long!

I remember the Christmas when our entire family (six of us) filed into the blue Hudson Hornet and loaded the trunk and luggage carrier with suitcases and presents and headed to Dallas to spend Christmas with my grandparents there.

But one Christmas in my childhood stands out above all the rest. And frankly, as I began to

recognize this, I was genuinely surprised. The Christmas of which I am speaking began sometime in a November.



Mother gathered the entire family together one day when Dad was gone. Betty, Kaye, Pete, and I (the Lord had not yet given us Ronnie) sat in a little circle and listened to our mother.

“This Christmas,” she said, “I want us to do something special for Dad.”

We all listened intently.

“Just think,” she continued, “of all the things Dad has done for you kids and think of all the nice things he has gotten for all of us in the past.”

As she talked, each one of us began to catch some of the enthusiasm and sincerity in her voice.

“Don't you think it would be nice for us to do something special for your dad this Christmas?”

Well, it made sense to all of us, and we began preparing for a special surprise Christmas “for Daddy.”

It's funny, but I only remember one gift we got for Dad that Christmas and that was a bathrobe. I talked with Mother later, and she reminded me about several other presents we got for him. She got his wedding band that year, and each one of us children bought something special for Dad with money we had earned ourselves.

While I cannot remember all the things we got for Dad, I will never forget that Christmas morning. There are only a few times in my life when I can remember Dad being surprised, but this was certainly one of them! We all gathered in the living room early Christmas morning and read the Christmas story from Luke 2 and had prayer. Then, as was customary in our

house, Dad began passing out the presents. As soon as I would get a present, I opened it. Betty, Kaye, and Pete did the same. Normally each one of us kids had a lot of presents for which to be thankful, and Dad and Mother would have just a few presents. Dad always set his five or six presents aside to watch the rest of us open ours. As Dad began to stack his presents, he was soon aware that this was going to be an unusual Christmas!

All of us were anxious for Dad to begin opening his presents. As I said, I do not remember what all the presents were, but I will never forget the bewilderment in Dad's face as he opened gift after gift. Here was one from the Princess (Mother). Here was one from Betty. Here, another one from the Princess. Here was one from Kaye. And here was another from Bill and Pete.

“What in the world,” Dad would say. He opened present after present. Finally, in the last present there was a note from all of us that had been composed by Mother. It said something along the line of . . . “You have been so good to us, and we wanted to make this a special Christmas for you.”

It is an indelible impression I have on my mind as I remember Dad sitting there smiling, wiping away the tears, and opening more presents!

It was a memorable Christmas. At the outset there may seem to be no reason to be surprised that I would remember it so well. However, if you will stop and think with me, there is a very good reason for surprise.

It shocks me that several years later, the Christmas most indelibly printed on my mind is not a Christmas in which I *received* something, but a Christmas in which I had a part in *giving*. When in the world will we remember in this nation that there is a joy in *giving* that Almighty God has promised us?

In Acts 20:35, the Apostle Paul said by inspiration, “*I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*”

Christmas is a wonderful time, and I believe it should be a blessed time. It can and will be exactly that, as we remember that Christmas is a time of giving.

## BACK AT THE RANCH...



## NEED



Have you ever made a hole-in-one at the Branding Iron Greens? If you've ever enjoyed Cowboy Town, you've probably at least attempted a hole-in-one at our 18-hole putt-putt golf course.

It's time for some much-needed repairs, including fresh, new carpet and new putters. The estimated cost is \$2,000. Would you consider helping with this project? And who knows? This just may improve your hole-in-one chances next summer!

# New Year's Revival

I was watching the final game of the World Series a while back, feeling sorry for the poor batter setting a record for the most strikeouts in a single World Series. He appeared to be completely fooled by the pitcher's offering time and time again. I wondered to myself, "Why does he keep swinging at the same bad pitches?"



Then I thought about some of my own experiences and human nature in general, and I wondered, "Why do I keep swinging at the same bad pitches?" However, this pondering has nothing to do with baseball but rather with the wiles of the devil. Back in Genesis 3, Satan revealed his deception; and it worked so well that he has stuck with the same pitches all these years.

The time of year is upon us when many of us think about taking a new swing at old problems. We call this "making resolutions." I have always felt that this term is indicative of the main problem. If I am left to succeed based on what I *resolve* to do, I am doomed to swing and miss again. My success in life is not based on my ability to determine to do right but on a step-by-step surrender to the Lord in my life. Rather than pull myself up by the bootstraps, I need to depend on the Lord and His Word to change me. After forty-four years of life, I certainly still need the Lord to change me. I hope you know you need the same!

It is frustrating to fail, whether the failure be in thought, word, or deed. It is frustrating to fall for the same "bad pitch" from Satan over and over again. Many of us want to please the Lord as David declared in Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD." The great thing is that we can! David found the right approach, and he stated it by concluding his prayer, "...O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

New success with old problems will not come to us because we suddenly discover the resolve

to do better; it will come because we learn to consistently lean on the Lord for the victory only He can give. Remember, as many times as you have swung at Satan's pitches, the Lord Jesus never has. He is the key to your new year's revival!



Planning a trip to the Grand Canyon? Stop by and see us. We are just sixty miles away in the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon"—Williams, Arizona.



Visit [www.westbranchAZ.org](http://www.westbranchAZ.org) for more information.



## Choose from two programs!



**CERTIFICATE OF BIBLE** (One-Year)  
Get a better understanding of the Bible through survey classes (Old and New Testaments) and individual book studies. Ministry opportunities both on and off the campground connect the classroom with real-world experience. **\$6,060**



**ASSOCIATE OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES** (Two-Year)  
Develop a deeper understanding of the Bible through detailed exposition in the classroom. Gain perspective on our world today through a study of modern religious history. See biblical truths applied to contemporary issues. Pursue your interest in a particular area of service. **\$11,920**

brbi@billriceranch.org | 615.893.2767, ext. 112 | [www.brbi.org](http://www.brbi.org)



# Calendar

## OF EVENTS

---

### SEASONAL RETREATS

- West Branch Senior Trip Retreats  
Flagstaff, AZ ..... **April 2-21**
- Day of Champions ..... **April 28**
- Father & Son Adventure ..... **May 18-19**

---

### REGIONAL EVENTS

- Florida Day of Champions  
Land O' Lakes, FL ..... **February 3**
- Men on the Move  
Williams, AZ ..... **March 16-17**
- Ladies' Spring Getaway  
Flagstaff, AZ ..... **April 28**

---

### SUMMER CAMPS

- Youth I, Junior I, Deaf I ..... **June 11-15**
- Day Camp I ..... **June 18-22**
- YOUTH FULL II, Junior II, Deaf II ..... **June 25-29**
- Family I ..... **July 2-6**
- Independence Day Retreat ..... **July 4**
- YOUTH FULL III, Junior III, Deaf III ..... **July 9-13**
- Youth IV, Junior IV, Deaf IV ..... **July 16-20**
- Day Camp II ..... **July 23-27**
- Family II, Deaf Adult ..... **July 30-Aug. 3**



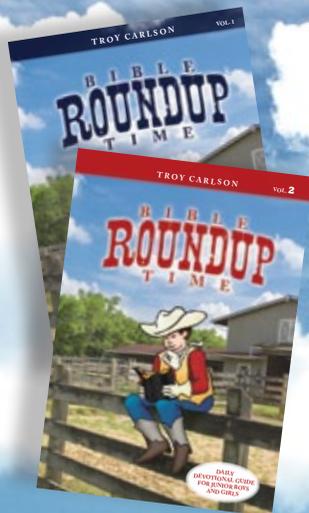
Bill Rice Ranch, Inc.  
627 Bill Rice Ranch Road  
Murfreesboro, TN 37128-4555

Return Service Requested



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
PERMIT #200

## Bill Rice Ranch PUBLICATIONS



### Bible Roundup Time Vol. 1 & 2

Daily devotionals for kids

*Evangelist Troy Carlson*

A daily devotional guide for boys and girls written to assist adults in training children to develop a daily pattern of Bible reading. Each day includes a brief explanation of the passage and basic questions for comprehension.

**\$6 each**

NOTE: Price DOES NOT include shipping & handling.  
For orders, call **1-800-253-RICE, ext.117**  
or visit our website **www.billriceranch.org**



## Summer Ministry OPPORTUNITIES

**MINISTRY INTERNSHIP** Two-week program for high school graduates ages 16-20 blending classroom instruction and hands-on experience to prepare young people for future service. Cost: \$350

**RANCH HANDS** Ranch Hands are young men between the ages of 15-19 who volunteer a part of their summer to assist in the revival ministry of the Bill Rice Ranch.

**SUMMER STAFF** Volunteer your summer as a counselor or operational staff member and make a difference in the lives of others for eternity!



### APPLY TODAY ONLINE

[billriceranch.org/SummerMinistry](http://billriceranch.org/SummerMinistry)  
Limited positions available for 2018

## FAMILY CAMP



THE Perfect  
FAMILY VACATION!



WEEK I July 2-6  
(Rick Flanders, Doug Jackson)

WEEK II July 30-Aug. 3  
(Jerry Sivnsky & Todd Sivnsky)

Make your plans now—register today!

1-800-253-RICE • [registration@billriceranch.org](mailto:registration@billriceranch.org) • [www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org)  
627 Bill Rice Ranch Road, Murfreesboro, TN 37128-4555