

# Trailblazer

*Keeping in touch, seeking your prayer and involvement.*

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## A Word from Wil Rice

President, Bill Rice Ranch

A gray sky sagged over stark Tennessee hills. It was Christmas and I was cold, but the herd at the East Pasture gate that acknowledged me with ears pricked forward didn't know that. They just knew that they were hungry. The Ranch horses serve us, and we feed them.

I learned that horses eat every day, rain or shine! Some days I regretted that, but I came to see their faithful service as something worthy of my time and effort. Every farmer or rancher deserving of the name understands this.

This is, perhaps, what the Apostle Paul had in

mind when he twice quoted the words of Deuteronomy 25:4 which says, "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn." In I Corinthians 9:9-10, Paul follows up these words by asking, "Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes?" Obviously, this allusion is for our sakes. If a man would care for his animal who serves him, wouldn't he care for God's servant who serves him?

A pastor or missionary, whether starting a church down the road or across some ocean, needs the prayers and



support of God's people. Generally, such a man secures support before there is either a congregation or a building. This is as it should be! A church is not a building; it is people. Such work usually begins as God works through a man!

Now, I have asked Evangelist Troy Carlson if I might say a word to you about his support, because you have been a friend... (continued on back)

Volume 3, Issue 3 5/12/09

A ministry of the  
Bill Rice Ranch  
[www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org)

## Summer Ministry

Our family will be spending the summer in ministry at the Bill Rice Ranch. I will be preaching for Youth Weeks 1 & 4 as well as some in Junior Weeks and to the staff. We will also be in churches in the East to raise support for our family. I plan to make at least one trip back to West Branch during the summer for the purpose of checking on things and doing whatever needs to be done to further the development process.

## Please pray for:

1. The arrangement of details to begin work on water infrastructure.
2. God's power this summer in ministry at the Bill Rice Ranch.
3. Additional financial support. (Current level for Carlsons—15.3%)
4. Wisdom in planning fall ministry events.

## Ladies on the Move

We thank the Lord for a very productive **Ladies on the Move Conference** April 25th in Flagstaff. We worked with our home church, Northland Baptist Church, to conduct this event. We had an attendance of 103 from eleven churches mostly across northern Arizona and west-

ern New Mexico. We hope to grow next year and are praying the Lord will allow our church to be able to complete our auditorium construction by then. The day

was full of fun and smiles around the Word of God.



Sara Carlson speaking at the conference.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious noon meal as well as a feast from God's Word on the theme: Ingredients of a Delicious Life.

## What Is A Trailblazer?

**Trailblazers** are churches that have been a **special blessing** to West Branch over the past year specifically through one or more of the following (accomplished in 2008):

1. Attending multiple events,
2. Attending 1+ event and having a WB evangelist preach in their church,
3. Supporting WB (or Carlsons) regularly, or
4. Hosting an event.

## West Branch on the Move Schedule

- **Regional Youth Conference, Phoenix, AZ** Sept. 12, 2009
- **Men on the Move Conference, Fort Collins, CO** Oct. 23-24, 2009
- **Families on the Move Conference, Phoenix, AZ** Feb. 26-27, 2010
- **Men on the Move Conference, Williams, AZ** Mar. 19-20, 2010
- **Families on the Move Conference, Santa Maria, CA** Sept. 26-28, 2010
- **Ladies on the Move Conference, Flagstaff, AZ** April 24, 2010

Pizza and fellowship



Youth Conference preaching



## Youth Conference this Fall: "Dealing with Everyday Situations"

It's not too early to be thinking about this fall. We hope those of you around Arizona will put our Youth Conference on your schedule. The conference will be **Saturday, September 12** in Phoenix. The exact location is being determined.

Our burden is to be a help to teenagers and youth leaders. While we are changing a few things this year, our primary focus will still be the preaching of the Bible. We believe you will enjoy Evangelist Matt Downs. He has a great knack for speaking to teens. Since the conference is a one-day event, we believe the Lord will use Brother Matt's ability to quickly gain favor with teenagers. Prayerfully, I am confident the day will help you with your youth group.

To hear a teen message from Brother Matt, visit [www.billriceranch.org](http://www.billriceranch.org) and find Matt Downs under "Revival Ministries."

## A Word from Wil Rice continued from front

and have demonstrated a heart for the ministry for which Brother Troy is responsible. Brother Troy's sole purpose for being in Williams, Arizona is to be a blessing to churches like yours.

Brother Troy lives on less than \$2,300 a month. While this would

be a modest salary to most, it is a pressing need for West Branch. His work is a ministry and not a business. The Deaf and hearing campers to whom he ministers generally cannot support him, but perhaps the churches the Carlson's help could.

Of course, \$2,300 does not cover substantial and consistent travel and ministry expenses, but it would surely be a start! I know by the fact that you receive this letter and that you are reading it that you are already a blessing to West Branch. We do not take your friendship for granted. I want you to know that West Branch wants more than any-

thing else to be a blessing to you!

Would you prayerfully consider supporting West Branch by specifically supporting the Carlson family on a monthly basis? Consistency is more important than the amount of any one gift, and anything will make a difference!



**Ladies on the Move**  
special music



Food & fellowship at the  
**Ladies on the Move Conference**