



# West Branch Trailblazer

Keeping in Touch, Seeking Your Prayer and Involvement

*West Branch is a ministry of the Bill Rice Ranch*

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Evangelist Troy Carlson, Director

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## Prayer Requests

One more Ranch Hand

Finances to begin the expansion of fire protection required for the dining hall

Dining hall project management, plans, engineering, and contacts

Contacts and campership funds for our first Deaf Camp at the Williams campground

## Project Status

**Dining Hall-** Over \$106,000 has been given for preliminary projects toward our \$250,000 goal. The electrical expansion is complete. We are gearing up for the fire suppression expansion.

**Campground Enhancing-** Ongoing work with water runoff, roads, and sidewalks; we have started work on 2018 improvements

## Men on the Move

Last month we conducted our annual Southwest Regional Men on the Move Conference here in Williams, Arizona. Men from eighteen churches around Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah, joined us for the two-day event.

We had plenty of excitement in our first service as the fire alarm went off! Thankfully, there were no issues in the facility we were renting, and we moved on to much better experiences! We praise the Lord for the many decisions that were made during the conference as a result of the Holy Spirit's using the preaching of the Bible.



**Two of the many men who attended our recent conference**

Evangelists Wil Rice IV, Tim Thompson, and Troy Carlson preached on themes such as the gospel, loving your wife, embracing true Biblical grace, demonstrating our Christian victory, and meditating in God's Word. Pastors Steve Morris and John Goetsch, Jr. also led breakout sessions on practical Christian growth and church growth.



**Volunteer Choir**



**Friends from Northern Arizona**

We always enjoy the fellowship and the great food (fajita bar, this year) at these events as well as the tremendous singing. Among the special music were several specials from the Tim Thompson family and a choir of

## 2018 West Branch Events

- 4.28 Ladies Spring Getaway  
Flagstaff, AZ
- 6.9 Work Day
- 6.10-7.21 Southwest Youth Challenge
- 6.25-29 Junior Camp
- 7.5-7 Family Camp
- 7.9-13 Youth Camp 1
- 7.16-20 Youth Camp 2
- 9.8 Arizona Regional Youth Conference,  
Peoria, AZ
- 9.14-15 Ladies & Girls' Night in the Pines
- 10.5-6 Men & Boys' Campout
- 10.12-13 Southwest Youth Challenge Retreat

## Special Needs

- 12' x 20' carpet remnant for our new platform
- Foosball Table (good condition)
- Woods finishing mower
- ~~Heavy duty weed whacker~~ PROVIDED!
- New queen size bed
- 6' & 8' Lifetime Tables
- 6' green collapsible Lifetime picnic table
- Compact Utility Tractor (e.g. John Deere, Kubota)

## Stay Connected

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volunteers who did a spectacular job after one twenty-five minute practice together. We look forward to coming together again next year for our thirtieth men's conference in Northern Arizona.

## We Could Use a "Hand"

Since our last newsletter, the Lord has provided several more volunteers for our summer staff. We currently **need just one more Ranch Hand** to complete our team! Ranch Hands are fifteen years old or older young men who help with food service and other camp needs. We have a brief application process for prospective Ranch Hands.

We could also use another "hand": some volunteers on a shorter term basis. Before summer, we would like to put up some additional fencing in two areas: activity courts and horse pasture. We have the materials; we just need a little experience and some willing "hands."



2017 Fencing Project—Pasture

We have a **work day** planned for **Saturday, June 9**, but we would also be glad to host some helping hands some other time between now and then, especially if you had a group of men that could help.

## Southwest Youth Challenge



Previous Youth Challenge winners

Back in the days when we were not able to host youth camps for several summers, we began sponsoring a contest between church youth groups in Arizona. Now after eight summers, we have expanded our contest to include churches from other southwestern states.

During a six-week period, youth pastors keep track of their teenagers' attendance, visitors brought, scripture read and memorized, and gospel tracts distributed. We collect the score sheets electronically and let the churches know how they are doing and who has won. The Challenge provides incentive for young people to stay faithful during the summer months.

We are offering a \$400 prize to the winning youth group as well as free attendance to an overnight retreat at West Branch in October. Prizes will also be awarded to second- and third-prize winners as well as bonus week winners and individual Challenge winners. We are asking the Lord to give us 15-20 churches to participate in this summer's Challenge.

For more information, please visit our website.