



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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Prayer Requests

Funds for engineering work and beginning Phase Two of the Rasmussen Crossing development

Spiritual impact during fall events

2023 Summer Staff recruiting which is underway

Project Status

Rasmussen Crossing – raising funds to be able to have engineering done to add bathrooms; resuming drywall and paint work that was paused for summer (as funds permit)

Upcoming Events:

- Aug 11-13 Private Church Retreat
- Sep 10 Arizona Regional Youth Conference
- Sep 16-17 Ladies & Girls' Night in the Pines
- Sep 26-28 Advisory Board Meeting at West Branch

Visit westbranchAZ.org for more details.

Summer Camp Blessings

June and July were busy with three youth camps, junior camp, family camp, and the Ladies Summer Getaway. We thank the Lord for increased attendance this summer especially in youth camps as we were able to add a third week. There were several other great highlights of the summer.

First, we had an **outstanding group of summer volunteers**. Some were lined up far ahead of camp while others were last minute additions. The staff came from Arizona, Texas, Missouri, Florida, Ohio, Haiti, and Siberia! There was a great spirit among the group. Staff included counselors, kitchen staff, an evangelist and family, program staff, operational staff, and resident staff.

Secondly, we were very blessed to have **26 young people trust Christ as their Savior!** There were also 15 decisions for assurance of salvation and dozens more who prayed with counselors about a variety of other things. Several of us noticed that God seemed to be providing blessings in waves and really doing a great work among the campers who attended. I think all of us on staff were also helped from the preaching we heard this summer.

Thirdly, it was a great blessing to be **able to use the Rasmussen Crossing for our auditorium**. The building is much nicer, even in an incomplete stage, than our old auditorium. It is also in the center of camp which made the convenience of it a noticeable upgrade. We were able to use the building temporarily by having a rented restroom trailer next to the building and available before and after services. Though it was a costly endeavor, we believe it made a large difference in the effectiveness of camp.



Youth Camp service in The Crossing



Junior Campers at the Rodeo Corral

Special Needs

- Softball gloves! SEVERAL PROVIDED! Could use a few more, especially for lefties.
- Utility dump trailer
- Commercial beverage/merchandise cooler
- Newer model pickup truck, 4x4 with towing and hauling capability (e.g. F250), probably 2010-newer.
- Compact Utility Tractor (e.g. John Deere, Kubota)
- We are always trying to enhance our activity selection. If you have a gently used ping pong, Foosball, or other similar game table that you would be willing to donate, please let us know, especially if you would have the ability to transport it to us!

Stay Connected

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Additional itineraries, schedules, & reports are online.

Fall Ministry

Summer turns to fall very quickly here. While that can be true about the weather, it is an even more accurate description of our schedule. Though we just finished summer events and said good bye to our summer volunteers, we are already starting our fall retreat schedule. This week we have about 35 men from Phoenix coming for a two-night men's retreat. Then in early September we will be heading to Phoenix to hold our annual Arizona Regional Youth Conference.



Our summer staff has headed back home before starting fall school, college, and job responsibilities

Following that event, we will have three more retreats: Ladies & Girls' Night in the Pines, Men & Boys' Camp Out, and the Church Family Retreat, stretching from mid-September to mid-October. We would love to have you join us if you are within driving distance!

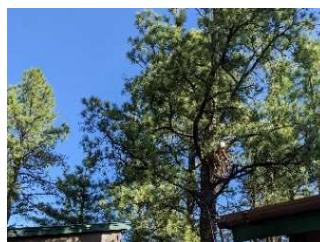
We could also use some help at these events. If you would be willing to help with kitchen or perhaps babysitting duties, let us know, and we will see if it will work out. Also, please pray for us as we begin the process to recruit workers for next summer's volunteer staff.

Rasmussen Crossing Next Steps

Using the Rasmussen Crossing this summer was a huge blessing! It was so helpful to move our services into this building. However, there are still many things to do to complete the building, even without considering the future kitchen addition. For that reason, we will not be attempting to use the building this fall. Rather, it will return to a construction zone.

Having said that, there is only a limited amount of work we can do until more funds are raised to help with the engineering to add bathrooms. The rooms are already there, but we need to both outfit them with fixtures and bring water and sanitation service to the building itself. That is where the engineering comes in. We hope to get the county's permission to tie the restrooms into current water and sanitation which serve our camp cabins. The county has seemed hesitant about this idea, but we believe that the current systems are large enough to handle it.

Meanwhile, it was a big encouragement to have two men from a supporting church in Illinois visit us this month and provide some much needed work. They even trained us to do some maintenance which we did not previously have experience in. We love volunteers!



A hazardous, rotten tree removed