



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

County remodel permit to facilitate the Crossing bathrooms projects

2023 Summer Staff recruiting – filling the final spots

Wisdom in preparing for 2023 events

Project Status

Rasmussen Crossing – We are contracted with an engineer to represent us with Coconino County in order to tie in a septic tank for new bathrooms to our current system

Upcoming Events:

- Mar 17-18 Men on the Move Conference
 - Mar 27 - Senior Trip & Youth Retreats
 - May 12
 - June 2-3 Ladies Summer Getaway
 - June 19 - Summer Camps
 - July 21
- westbranchAZ.org

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

As we look back on 2022, we are very grateful for the Lord’s provision in so many ways. We had truly one of the best summers of ministry we can recall. That was aided by the fact that we were able to use the Rasmussen Crossing for our summer auditorium. God also provided a fantastic summer staff. Then, this fall, we have had more blessings.

After receiving some additional funding, we were able to **secure the help of an engineer** to navigate us through our dealings with Coconino County on the Rasmussen Crossing restroom project. We are still waiting for her to make the application for a remodel permit which would be the simplest, least expensive way to add these restrooms onto the current sanitation system. She will make this proposal in early 2023.

We also just completed a small remodeling project for staff housing. We wanted to provide more space for the Porter family since they lived in a just a small one-bedroom house. Due to the kindness of some donors and volunteers, we have been able to **remodel the Bach House** with new flooring, paint, and other upgrades. Josh, Dee Dee, and Elijah moved into their new home this week.

Now, while the campground itself has been secured for winter, we are **planning for 2023 events**. This includes preparing for the Men on the Move Conference here on site in March. We have also been recruiting volunteers for summer camp ministry (two trips and many emails, texts, and calls). And we are planning summer schedules and activities. Most of these things take months to complete. We have also had several opportunities to **preach in churches** this fall in Arizona, California, and Florida. And we just received a report of \$300 in **new monthly support** starting in January!



Men & Boys’ Camp Fire this Fall



New paint & carpet – Staff Housing

Special Needs

- Commercial beverage/merchandise cooler
- Utility dump trailer
- Lefthanded softball gloves
- Compact Utility Tractor (e.g. John Deere, Kubota)
- Newer model pickup truck, 4x4 with towing and hauling capability (e.g. F250), probably 2010-newer.
- 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.

Recruiting Volunteers

We spend a lot of time prayerfully looking for our summer staff volunteers. Our first stop in the process is always with those who just finished serving here for a summer. It's always a joy to have summer staff return. Then we seek additional recruits through personal contacts and at several Bible colleges. At this point, we have filled nearly 70% of our 2023 positions. We are praying for the Lord to **fill these additional important spots which include help in the kitchen (1 cook, a couple of ranch hands), first aid, and counselors (2-3 spots remain).**



[New Volleyball Court light](#)

Volunteers are not just a summer need, though. We were blessed to have folks from Flagstaff, Verde Valley, the Phoenix Valley, and even Illinois help us out this fall. We have had carpentry, flooring, electrical, dry wall, and tree removal work done. We even had a new light installed for our volleyball court!

As we approach next summer, we are going to need some additional help with dry wall and fixture installation in the Rasmussen Crossing. While we expect a contractor to install our new septic connection and water supply for the Crossing bathrooms, we will need volunteer help in other related areas too. Probably our biggest need now is help with the finishing stages of the dry wall in the Crossing.

Summer Camp Registration

Though our early registration cutoff is not till the end of February, we have already been seeing our summer camp weeks fill up through the Fast Track program. In Fast Track, a church pays a fee now to reserve a week at an approximate number of campers. These campers are confirmed later with registration fees. As a reward, the church then receives the ability to bring two adults to camp with their group for free.

As it stands right now, **Junior Camp is nearly full** through Fast Track alone. While all three teen camps have multiple churches locked in, there is still room in each week. If you have not yet secured a spot for your church next summer, please do so soon! Please also pray that the Lord will provide new groups for us to be a blessing to through camp next summer.



[Junior Hay Ride, Teen Campers](#)