

All Aboard!

Fall 2009

The Railroad Evangelist Magazine - Proclaiming the Good News since 1938





Luther S. Harkey 1885 - 1949
 Founder of the Railroad Evangelistic Association

- Mission Statement -

The Railroad Evangelistic Association exists to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the entire railroad community worldwide and to promote mutual Christian fellowship among, though not limited to, those of the railroad industry, the model railroad hobbyist and the rail fan enthusiast.

WE BELIEVE

1. We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God, and inerrant in the original writings. They are the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
2. We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true Man.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God: that he sinned, and thereby incurred, not only physical death, but also Spiritual death which is separation from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature. In the case of those who reach moral responsibility do become sinners in thought, word, and deed.
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. In addition that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed Blood.
6. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified Body of our Lord. In His Ascension into Heaven and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.
7. We believe in "that blessed hope," the personal, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
8. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.

- The Railroad Evangelistic Association

REA 2009 - 2010 OFFICERS

President

Wilson Riley (540) 869-7019
 6811 Beulah Street
 Alexandria, VA 22310 (703) 751-8925

First Vice President

Rev. Magead Salloum
 720 W. Thomas Street
 Rome, NY 13440 (315) 525-4748
 E-Mail: revsalloum@cheerful.com

Second Vice President

George Sampson (609) 561-6922
 699 Albertson Rd.
 Winslow, NJ

Secretary-Treasurer-Editor

Joe Spooner BN (360) 699-7208
 PO Box 5026
 Vancouver, WA 98668
 E-Mail: railroadevangelist@comcast.net

REA National Chaplain

Rev. Paul Campbell
 603 Aylor Road
 Stephens City, VA 22655 (571) 869-7019
 E-mail: campbellrev.paul@yahoo.com

Convention Coordinator

Mrs. Ann Grissom, SCL (941) 948-5821
 November - April
 20800 Hammock Greens # 306
 Estero, FL 33928
 May - October (317) 585-0318
 7045 Koldyke Place
 Fishers, IN 46038

Advisory Board

Don Robey, Chairperson (804) 453-3804
 290 Forest Green Rd.
 Reedville, VA 2

Ruth Lounsbury.....
 Rosalind Ragonese.....Syracuse, NY
 Marlene Sampson.....Winslow, NY
 Doris Robey.....Reedville, VA
 Ed Damron.....Alexandria, VA

Promotion and Publicity

Phil Hannum, Chairperson (703) 378-8507
 13124 Poplar Tree Road
 Fairfax, VA 22033

Paul Myhre, BN.....Spokane, WA
 Helen Booterbaugh.....Alexandria, VA
 Carol Clifton.....Millville, NJ

Contributing Editors

Rev. Stephen Seidler Model RR & Rail Fan Pages
 810 18th Street SE
 Owatonna, MN 55060
 E-Mail:

Geneva Campbell (540) 869-7019
 603 Aylor Road
 Stephens City, VA 22655

Director of Development & Ministry Advancement

Alan L. Harkey (864) 275-3209
 300 Birkenstock Court
 Simpsonville, SC 29681 alanharkey@gmail.com

Convention Recording Secretary

Jane Hessler
 8199 Tiswell Dr. Apt 207
 Alexandria, VA 22306

Former REA Presidents

Dick Brothers, Edward Perry, Smith Dewlen, Rocky Agrusti, Vernon Hall, Thomas Rudderforth, G.M. Durrett, Elmer Ward, Jake Steffen, Donald Russell, Paul Anger, Paul Campbell, John Penn, Samuel Museums, Thomas Mosley, Bud Harkey, Alan Harkey, Magead Salloum, Glenn Stevens, Ann Grissom.

This issue of the Railroad Evangelist magazine was printed in the FALL of October 2009. Vol. 73, No. 3.

GET ON TRACK!

Subscribe to the
Railroad Evangelist
 Magazine

For only \$8.00 a year you will receive one of the most unique non-denominational Railroad magazine published anywhere in the world.

Help spread the word by ordering the **Railroad Evangelist** magazine in bulk to give or mail to others. Same bulk price since 1986.

BULK SUBSCRIPTION COSTS

(Based upon per issue)
 100 copies \$20.00 50 copies \$12.50
 20 copies \$6.00 10 copies \$3.50

Subscribe today for yourself or a friend, make out your check or money order to REA and send to:

REA
PO Box 5026
Vancouver, WA 98668

The Railroad Evangelist magazine is published three times a year by The Reflector, Battle Ground, Washington for the Railroad Evangelistic Association. Second class postage paid at Vancouver, WA. Circulation: 2,300.

PLEASE NOTE: If you move or have a change of address please, let the Sec/Treas know as soon as possible. It costs us 83 cents for each returned magazine. The middle code number after your name such as 000-0509-1 means your subscription is due the 5th month (May), of 2009. THANK YOU!

Railway Representatives in India

Rev. Victor Swamidoss, c/o Mr. S Arulraj #133, (New 530)
 S.N. Chetty Street
 Royapuram
 Chennai - 600 013 South India
 email: arulrasu@gmail.com

International Railroad Evangelist

S. Arulraj
 #33 Old # 16) West Madha Church Road
 Royapuram, Chennai - 600 013
 E-mail: arulrasu@gmail.com



Wilson Riley
President

MAINLINE

***“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and you will be saved, you and your household.”***

Acts 16:31

I am humbled and honored to be the new president of REA. Please pray for God to give me wisdom and strength to lead you this coming year.

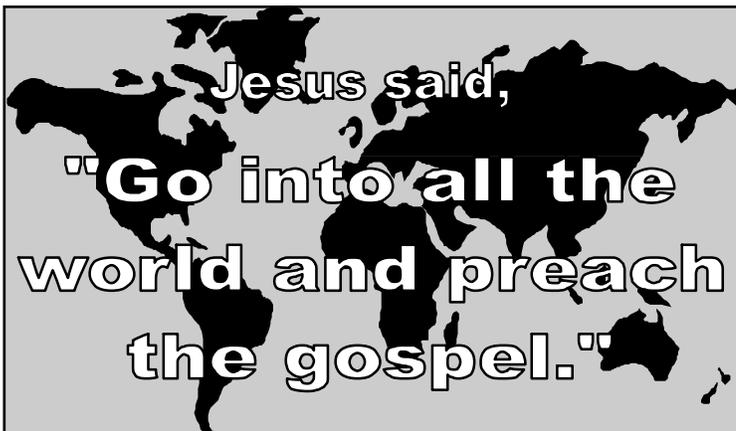
I pray this scripture will touch you as it did the Philippian jailor. Paul and Silas were preaching the word of Christ when they were brought before the magistrates by a group who claimed they were causing trouble. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into jail. The jailor was to watch them (with his life) throughout the night. Paul and Silas sang songs of praise up until midnight when a strong earthquake

shook the entire prison causing all the prison doors to open.

Being responsible for the prisoners the jailer was about to kill himself when Paul yelled out, “do not kill yourself, we are all still here”. The jailor asked Paul and Salis, “**what must I do to be saved?**” Paul told the jailer, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you and your household will be saved.**”

I am asking you to do as the jailer did and invite Jesus Christ into your life. Jesus said, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me**”. John 14:6

Let us labor together for the Lord until He comes.



Your membership, subscriptions and tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated as they are the only means we have to continue publishing and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the entire railroad community worldwide through the *Railroad Evangelist* magazine. Your financial gifts underwrite the cost and make it possible for us to send the *Railroad Evangelist* magazine out individually and in bulk supply as our home and missionary outreach. We thank God for each and everyone of you who have joined with this railroad literature evangelistic ministry with you prayers and finances.

We pray and trust God will abundantly bless you for your sacrificial giving for He “**is able to make all grace abound towards you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work.**”

2 Corinthians 9:8

“A LITTLE IS A LOT WHEN GOD IS IN IT”

Luke 9:12-17

All Aboard!

Membership in the Railroad Evangelistic Association is open to all Christians who have a desire to reach the entire railroad community worldwide with the Good News of Jesus Christ. For \$12.00 you will receive your REA Annual membership card (\$4.00) and a one year subscription (\$8.00 - 3 issues) to the **RAILROAD EVANGELIST** magazine.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN REA

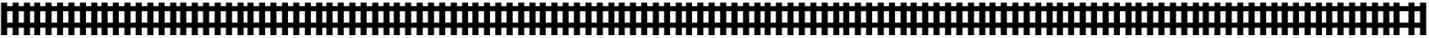
Please check the appropriate box.

- I am an active railroad employee.
- I am an former/retired railroad employee.
- My spouse is/was an active/former/retired railroad employee.
- I am a model railroad hobbyist.
- I am a rail fan enthusiast.
- My interest in REA is _____
- Sending \$4.00 for REA membership for one year.
- Sending \$8.00 for a one year subscription.

How did you learn of REA? _____

Please cut, photocopy or send appropriate information pertaining to the above application form and mail it to:

REA
PO Box 5026
Vancouver, WA 98668



Railroad Chaplains of America

By Gil A. Stricklin, Senior Railroad Chaplain

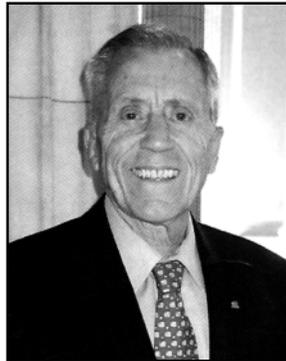
In July 2006, organizing a specially trained group of chaplains to serve the railroad transportation industry across America was only an idea in the mind and vision in the heart of Gil A. Stricklin, Chairman and CEO of Marketplace Ministries. However, today, Railroad Chaplains of America is an effective, dedicated and compassionate service organization. It has reached out in sincere sympathy to more than 700 families who have suffered the death or critical injury of loved ones due to a railroad accident, or death by natural causes. RRCA is a contract service to BNSF Railway, the second largest railroad in North America.

Approximately twice a week, every week since mid-November 2006, RRCA has gone to homes of families across the Southwest and Western parts of the United States to interact and assist grieving families and friends. Some 153 times through the first week of September 2008, BNSF Railway, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, has called upon RRCA to send chaplains to offer families help, to extend genuine care and provide sincere sympathy for their loss and sorrow.

CRISES AND CHAPLAINS

Chaplains make their greatest contribution to others in times of crises. Death, dying and critical injuries are always times of crisis, and these compassionate, loving and hope-extending individuals are there to uplift and support the remaining family who are devastated with grief.

BNSF Railway operates trains over about 32,000 route miles, with more than 26,000 railroad crossings spread across half the nation from Chicago to Seattle, and from San Diego, California to Birmingham, Alabama. There are seven Class I railroads in the United States, and RRCA is serving only one, BNSF Railway, led by Chairman, President and CEO Matt Rose, a 14 year BNSF veteran.



Gil A. Stricklin
Senior RR Chaplain

12900 Preston Rd. Su 1215
Dallas, TX 75230

www.mchapusa.com

HIGH MORAL OF CARING

RRCA is one of more than 3,000 contracted service providers to BNSF Railway. RRCA leaders are convinced railroad chaplains show the corporate human side of this transportation giant more than any other. Some of the 72 staff chaplains of RRCA have been rushed into service multiple times when notified about a railroad accident, whether a railroad-owned auto accident or railroad crossing accident. These specialized chaplains are highly skilled in crisis management, and effective in supporting the grieving.

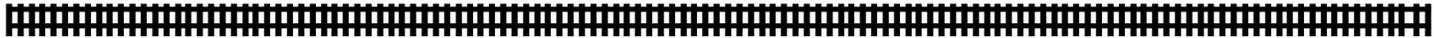
These same chaplains have walked with critically injured individuals through long term recuperation. RRCA has had chaplains be with these recovering individuals for as long as six months, and have been a source of encouragement to the injured, as well as to their family members. A word of motivation, a word of praise for work well done, and a prayer for continued improvement has been highly successful in helping those in recovery to heal faster.

APPRECIATION FOR RRCA

Appreciation and expressions of warmth have come from families served by chaplains of RRCA. Cards, letters, e-mails and telephone calls have poured into the RRCA headquarters in Dallas, Texas from across the country.

"Thank you for your sympathy and for helping us (financially) with the funeral," said one mother whose 43 year old son, Scott, was killed in a small town in Missouri. Another mother, dealing with the death of her 19 year old daughter, who died of a broken neck when she fell or jumped off a freight train she was riding, wrote, "It has been a year now since the accident and death of Katie. Some days I think I'm doing okay and then the next day I think I am going crazy. Thank you for your support."





Every railroad accident is sorrowful. There are none pleasant, and RRCA's only motivation is to help people get through another day and gain some peace and comfort from mourning.

Troy was a 31 year old young man who thought death was better than life and stepped out in front of a BNSF Railway train. "Thank you for thinking of me. You helped ease my pain and get me through another day. I am so grateful for people like you. God bless you all," wrote his mother as she struggles with a son's suicide.

"I am the father of Katelyn, the 20 year old girl that was hit by a train in Minnesota. We'd like to send you a deep thank you for the wonderful book, *Confessions of a Grieving Christian*. It is very, very good and greatly appreciated. We are seeking to put our trust in Christ and to move forward the best we can. Please let the engineer know we fully understand there was nothing he could do to prevent this from happening. We want them (the train crew on the engine) to know that Susan (mother) and I (dad) know it too. Katie made a tragic choice and there was no turning back," wrote her father, John, after their daughter took her life in the early hours of a dark night.

SADDEST OF ALL

Possibly the saddest of all is when parents send to RRCA pictures of the young person who was killed. Pictures of past days playing baseball, hanging out with friends, visiting New York City on a family vacation, or holding the antlers of a prize buck he bagged, accompanied with the simple words, "Thank you for all the love and support." Then there are Christmas cards with a picture of the widow and fatherless children as they celebrate the birth of Christ.

Tears come to anyone's eyes who shares in the grief and experiences the sorrow of all those families across America who chaplains have gone to, prayed with, and become a part of their family in bonding for the remainder of life. The family members of the grandparents, who slammed into the eleventh car from the end of the train as it had been passing the crossing for some time, are now RRCA friends. The family, whose two small children and a brother-in-law died when the SUV slid on ice and snow onto the tracks in front of a fast-approaching train, while the husband and father served with the Marines in Iraq, were helped by chaplains.

A father and son were riding their motorcycles while approaching a railroad crossing. The bells began ringing, the red lights flashing, and the crossing arms were coming down. The son began to stop while the dad sped up to beat the train. He was hit in the head by a descending crossing arm, knocked off his bike and thrown into a retaining wall, killing him instantly. The chaplains were there to console and support, showing what genuine compassion is all about.

There are more stories like these than space or time permits telling. However, you get the gist of how quickly life can end, regardless of age or circumstances. Now you know why chaplains are greatly needed and sincerely appreciated by families who suffer the loss of a loved one.

Extending hope to broken hearts is the mission of RRCA. This organization exists to express the compassion and care of America's finest railroads....and in this case BNSF Railway, the most caring railroad of all.

-END



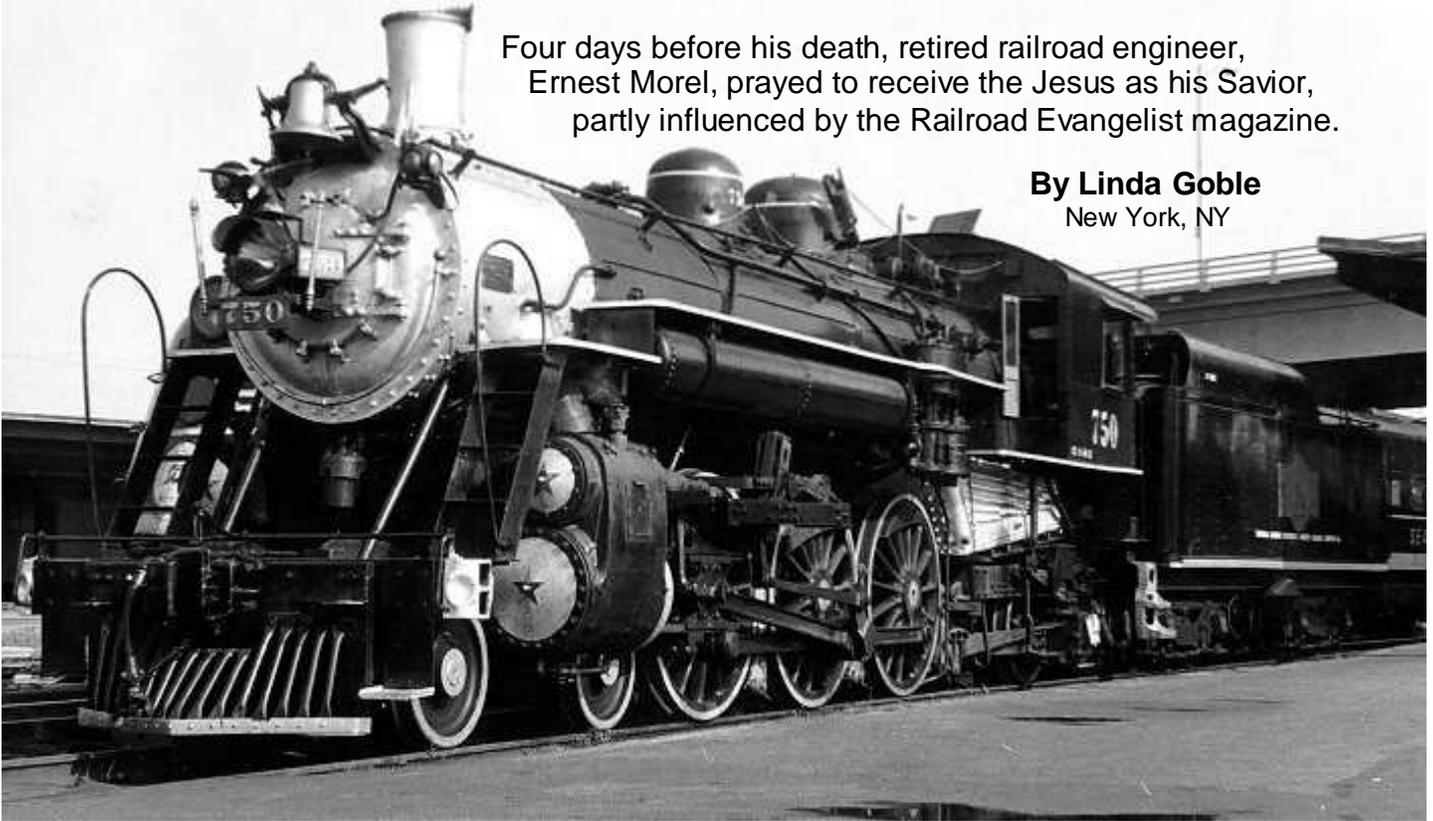
Railroad Chaplains of America, pictured above, are dedicated to bringing love, comfort and healing to those families who have suffered tragic loss and or hardship due to a railroad related incidents. Let each REA member and those reading this article bring the Railroad Chaplains of America before the Lord in prayer asking God to give them wisdom and grace in their ministry. Let us also pray for the Railway Chaplains of America to have an increasing grace and influence among all the major railroad companies of American and that God will use this professional group of committed ministers to lead many to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



Final Run

Four days before his death, retired railroad engineer, Ernest Morel, prayed to receive the Jesus as his Savior, partly influenced by the Railroad Evangelist magazine.

By Linda Goble
New York, NY



Savannah & Atlanta Engine # 750 now at rest at the Atlanta National Railroad Historical Society. Built in 1910 by American Locomotive Company (ALCO) for Key West extension of Florida East Coast Railway. This Light Pacific was sold to the Savannah and Atlanta Railway in 1935 when a hurricane destroyed major bridges between the Keys. Operated during early days of Southern's steam excursion program. Last in service with New Georgia Railroad (excursions) during the 1980s. Featured in *Biloxi Blues*. Donated 1962.

In the world today, we hear so much bad news. Here's a true story about a railroad man's hard life which ends with good news. THE RAILROAD EVANGELIST MAGAZINE should be encouraged because God used this wonderful publication in part, for the salvation of my father, the late Ernest A. Morel. On July 26th, 2008, with my mother, brother, and myself holding him, my engineer Dad, age 81 years old passed into life. Born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, he'd worked on the railroad for over 52 years. At age 17, he shoveled coal, then came the Coast Guard. When he returned from WWII service, he became an Engineer, and for several years, he was Trainmaster and Road Foreman of Engines. He returned to the engineer's position because he loved the work—he loved the trains! He began his career with the Savannah and Atlanta Railway. Later, he served Norfolk

Southern, retired, then returned to the Engine to work for as Rail Switcher. At an advanced age, he would finally leave the engineer's seat forever because of hearing loss. His father-in-law Horace W. Shaw was an engineer for the Seaboard Coastline. The Railroad was the bread and butter for my grandparents and for my parents. Our homes are still directly adjacent to the freight tracks, which are through Garden City, Georgia. After his "final" retirement, Daddy would make a mad dash to the windows when the diesel whistles blew, to see who was hauling what.

Ernest Morel was abandoned during the Depression by his father when he was seven years old. My paternal grandfather walked away from his family on Christmas Eve. As a poor fatherless boy, he had to make his way alone in the world. Loneliness is a cry from the hearts of many fine railroad men. Daddy had a

drinking problem relating back to this abandonment. He suffered its consequences but ultimately got the victory over it. As I think of my Dad, I'm overwhelmed at the loss of this gigantic, almost adult child personality. His passions were many and varied. He was an artist, drawing and painting nature scenes. The fine arts were always before us. He loved the animal world, and he was an amateur historian and explorer. When the far off whistle of a night train cries out near the midnight hour, I will always remember Daddy. He was the most intelligent man I've even met. He introduced me to classical music. This was a powerful influence on my life as I later would become a scholarship student at the Juilliard School in New York City, and was an opera singer for many years. He took his family to mountains, marshes, swamps, dams, rivers, over bridges, forts, zoos, mu-

seums, through tunnels, on trains, boats, in a submarine, and introduced us to love the world of books. He loved history, and was a student of the wars man has fought, citing knowledge that was extensive for a self-educated man. He was devoted to my mother, Mary, who is still living. When she became critically and chronically ill, he lapsed in caring for himself, and was devoted to her care. They'd been married 56 1/2 years. He executed his jobs flawlessly, whether it was an auto oil change, cooking his unique boiled crabs, or being the engineer for the final run of the historic 750 Locomotive. He was a thousand, thousand other things; however, I had been concerned over his spiritual condition for years. My best friend who had a true intercessory prayer ministry until she died at 91, prayed for my Dad five times a day for over twenty years. I went into the ministry as a missionary in Brooklyn, New York, to Jewish and Muslim people with my husband Dr Phillip Goble. At our mission, a Jewish believer in Jesus, Wayne Gilbert, began to bring me copies of ALL ABOARD to give to my father. Daddy would look at the magazines but would not comment.

The seed was planted deeply into his heart. Had it been a superficial planting, the outcome would have been vastly different. An elderly retired pastor, as a result of a divine encounter with my husband, felt he should visit Daddy. He caught my Dad's ear, talking about crabs, health, and Jesus! Only a few months later, this faithful retired pastor paid my Dad a hospital call. At this visit in the fullness of time, and only four days from his death, my Dad prayed with this pastor, soberly, somberly, and sincerely to surrender his life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. He grew distant, yet a sweetness enveloped him. In the hospital we watched the Christian station on television. He would look at pictures of the crucifixion, and say, "I have to watch

this He was laboring for each breath, so much a resemblance of Jesus on the Cross. He had no pain. The breathing and the pulse grew shorter. Then God took him to Himself. The night before he passed away, as I was leaving his hospital room, he called out, "God bless you." Never had he spoken those words to me, and they were his last.

Will you who read this story of my beloved father's last run, bound for Heaven, look up to the One who came to save you, give you hope and eternal life? My Dad was so blessed, at last, to become a never-to-be-abandoned reconciled son to his Heavenly Father. The thief on the Cross was issued full pardon at the end of his life and promised Heaven. The Lord Jesus has paid our sin debt in full by shedding His own precious Blood—the Innocent One laid down His life to ransom us, the guilty ones. He bids us, "All Aboard." He is not willing that any should perish.

A few times when I was very young, Daddy would let me ride a short distance on the tracks with him—this was a great togetherness experience riding on the rails with my Dad; however, I am overjoyed that we'll be together forever in eternity with Jesus at our Heavenly Station—will you?



Ernest Morel, (in the white cap) was the engineer on the "final run" of engine #750 from Savannah to Atlanta, Georgia sometimes in the mid 1980's. Engine # 750 is now at rest at the Atlanta National Railroad Historical Society.

In closing I gave my Dad a special gift for Father's Day two years ago. I had a star named for him. Somewhere, up in the sky, there's an Ernest Morel star.

Daniel 12:3 says, **"Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament. And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars, forever and ever."**



- >When I was a kid my parents moved a lot, but I always found them.
- >I was wondering why the baseball was getting bigger and bigger...then it hit me...
- >The invisible man married the invisible woman...and their children weren't much to look at either.
- >I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather... Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.
- >Children: You spend the first 2 years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 years telling them to sit down and be quiet!
- >If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.
- >I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian
- >How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- >I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.
- >I never apologize to anyone...I'm sorry, that's just the way I am.

>How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

>I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.

>I never apologize to anyone...I'm sorry, that's just the way I am.

**Do you have any favorite one-liners?
Send them to the editor. Thanks!**

"A cheerful heart does good like a medicine"
Proverbs 17:22 - Living Bible

★ A MINNESOTA MODEL MASTERPIECE ★

Ray Grosser moved back to Minnesota in January of 1963 after serving in the US Navy. At that time he was an apostate and unredeemed Lutheran. Ray enrolled in the Alexandria MN technical school to become a tool and die maker. As he sought responsibility for his life he met an Assembly of God minister by the name of L.D. Kramer. Mr. Kramer used to come by the gas station on Friday evenings and engage those present in spiritual matters. Ray became intrigued with some things he had to say. In the spring of 1963 Ray became ill and was admitted to the Glenwood MN hospital. No one from the Lutheran church came to visit even though Ray attended there infrequently. Mr. Kramer did come by to visit. The first words out of his mouth when he entered the room were, "How is it between you and God?" Obviously, Ray had no answer as he did not know.

Mr. Kramer patiently and carefully set the Word pictures before Ray and explained to him the Gospel of Christ. He said that Ray could "know that he was saved" which of course Ray had never heard before - it may have been spoken in his hearing over the years, but Ray **heard** it the first time from Mr. Kramer. He read each passage in the Word of God to reveal to Ray that he was not making this up. Mr. Kramer did not lead Ray through the four spiritual laws, but laid out the Gospel in such a way that proved by the Word of God that Ray was actually lost and not walking on the narrow path that leads to life. Ray had to acknowledge that he was a sinner. Ray was convinced that he had sin and that he had to repent of that sin. Repenting was not the acknowledging that he was sinful - but he had to turn from it. Mr. Kramer did not lead Ray in a sinner's prayer, but had **him** call upon the LORD to hear **his** cry and forgive **him** for **his** ungodly life choices. In the end, Ray wept over this for some time as he sought relief for the enormous weight on his heart. A day or two later the Spirit of the LORD confirmed to Ray that he had indeed found the promised salvation and was genuinely re-born. Ray started attending the small congregation where Mr. Kramer was the pastor. He, along with others who KNEW they had been saved, began to disciple Ray Grosser in the Word of God.

Ray was then and is still impressed by those he met in that first congregation. They were hard working farmers and railroaders who were not studied and polished theological students, but simple believers in what they read in the Word of God. They encouraged Ray to get a Bible and actually read it. Ray noted some worn and very used Bibles among that congregation so he asked them what Bible they were using. One told him to invest in a Dake's annotated Bible. Shocked at the price of it, Ray still bought one. As he worked through Genesis, Ray had many questions and later confessed he allowed his thoughts to be formed by what Finis Dake had to say about what passages of Scripture meant. It took Ray years to break that habit of seeking answers by what the theologian thought. Ray began to carefully seek the LORD to see what the Spirit had to say about a passage. There is a large gulf between those who seek the LORD with their whole heart to obey the Word of the LORD, and those who attempt to fit a Scripture into their thinking to confirm their thought on the passage. Ray learned to seek first what God has to say about it, finish reading through all the Scriptures first, and then seek the insights of others.

In devouring Scripture, Ray came to the part about baptism in Matthew. He was told that, yes, the baptism of believers was Scriptural. So a group gathered together and drove to Alexandria MN, to a church that had a baptismal tank, and Ray was baptized in the name of The Father - The Son - and The Holy Spirit. It was only the beginning for Ray as he finished reading through the Whole Scriptures. He was unable to contain all he received in that first year. He did not really begin to connect the deep truths - the hidden wonders of the Word - until he read the Scriptures through at least four times.

Since that 1963 spring time rebirth, Ray has witnessed within himself of how the Living God transforms those who have sought Him and trust in His Word. Ray says, "I was truly saved once, but I have been transformed many times. As the promise of the Word reveals, God chastises those He loves, but He never leaves or forsakes us. I have been blessed to see others come to the truth of Messiah Jesus over the last 46 years. I am awestruck that the LORD would use 'this pot of clay,' when someone discovers that they are lost and undone and are converted by the Word of God through something that comes from my heart through the Holy Spirit. I know the darkness of this heart and in spite of that darkness the LORD provides the light of His Spirit to shine through."

The model of this small wooden church and the memory of its congregation provided Ray Grosser new life as a believer in the truth of the Gospel of Christ. Ray and his wife Renee took photos of this building a number of years ago when they returned to Glenwood MN. Renee masterfully (see **ALL ABOARD**, Vol. 72, No. 1) built a model of the Assembly of God church for their HO model railroad that has since been sold and dismantled. Renee just completed this model in O scale to keep the memory and blessing of the provision of God alive in their hearts. It is a true reminder of those blessings and provisions to them and to all who have placed their faith and trust in the LORD Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.



DULUTH, MISSABE & IRON RANGE RAILWAY "CANDY TRAIN"

When I was eleven, my father took a new pastorate and we moved to Ohio. Nothing against the Buckeyes, but I was not content living in Ohio. My mother's translation of Philippians 4 was, "Steve, whatsoever state you're in, therewith be content. That state for you is, Ohio!" As we come into this winter season, all of us feel the harsh reality of difficult economic times in America. The college where my wife and I both ministered closed its doors last December, but our great God has supplied our needs in ways we could not imagine. I think we all need to dwell on the word of God thru Paul in Philippians 4:11-13, 18-20 – "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation (state) I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (ESV) I am a member of the Missabe Railway Historical Society. Used with permission, the following is from their publication, **ORE EXTRA**, Vol. 21, No.4, Spring 2009.

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed please find original articles pertaining to the DM&IR station at Saginaw, Minnesota. In cleaning out some family treasures, I came across these and think you folks may have better on-going use of them.

My father, Norbert H. Dallmann, was the station agent at Saginaw for the DM&IR for several years and was then transferred, promoted I think, to the big city of Duluth. In total Norb worked for 37 years with the DM&IR. My grandfather August Dallmann was also a track man for the DM&IR for 42 years.

The "Candy Train" was the DM&IR Saturday morning train that went right by our house. As the train stopped in Saginaw to pick up workers from the local section house, the cabooses men would stop at the Saginaw store and pick up penny candy of root beer barrels, licorice, sugar babies, and the like, place them in a small brown paper candy sack, and then the train would slow down by our house for him to toss the bag to "Norby's Kids" - my brother Harold and I. My mother, Millie, wrote the enclosed poem. These are very wonderful memories. Enjoy the information and thank-you for having value for it!

Sincerely, Mary Dallmann-Schaper

P.S. - I still have my own DM&IR jacket my father bought me!

CANDY TRAIN

You say, Candy Train what is that?
Well let me explain,
Wander back with me you'll see
Just what the Candy Train was to me.

It was morn; I was out with my toys.
A train came by with lots of noise.
I looked up and there it was all shining black
With smoke just pouring from its stack

I stood up and hailed it with my hand
And there I saw this conductor man.
I bet you thought a lantern was there
But better than that was the candy he had.

My feet then flew to the road then over
This was a day like a cow in a field of clover.
Down went the fences, onto the road I feared
But nothing would hold me now that the train was here.

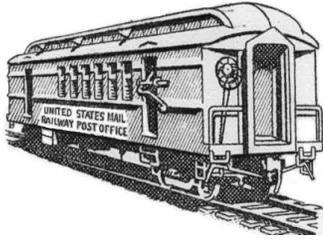
That conductor man he was good to me;
There in the grass a bag of candy I see,
Pick it up, then fast I turn;
Stop! at the road and look this way and that
Oh! I wonder what's in this heavy sack!

The candy was good; oh I must eat a lot slower;
Now to the wish that this day wasn't over.
Candy trains you see are great things for me
Shining and black, loud whistle and all
And that conductor man he is the best man of all.



That train still travels over the track.
The engine is still all shiny and black
But on the end where the good man was
There no more stands a guy with a bag of candy.

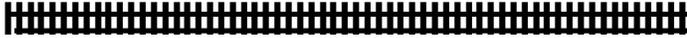
The sand in my sandbox and the toys that I use get old,
But, I will never forget them or his dear face.
So, to the candy train, to the conductor man, to my toys and all;
I'm, growing up now and maybe someday
I'll be a candy man just as he.



LETTERS

From our REA MAIL BAG

PO Box 5026 Vancouver, WA 98668 E-mail: rrjoe@comcast.net



Hello,
I can't tell you how excited I was to see an issue of "All Aboard" at work today in the Belen (New Mexico) Bullpen!
As a 17 year railroader who accepted Christ as my Savior in September of 2002 at New Heights Church in Vancouver, WA, I have literally dreamed of there being a Christian Ministry targeted to the railroaders of the world.
This really warms my heart and I will tell everyone about this I can!!
Thank you so much and I look forward to joining!
Bill Stuhldreher
Terminal Supt
Belen, NM

Hello,
I came across your website while doing a search on George Sellios of Fine Scale Miniatures. I would like a sample copy of the Railroad Evangelist magazine
Thank you.
Jaime Zepeda
Memphis, TN

Hi,
My name is Mark Lorenz. I am an engineer on the Canadian Pacific Railway. I am interested in learning more about your organization. Please send me a copy of your magazine and any other information you think would be helpful. I have reviewed your web site and was excited to find out there was a Christian group for those involved in railroading.
Thank you.
Mark Lorenz
Saint Paul, MN 55119

Greetings REA,
Well I have found the web site. I am Luther Harkey's great granddaughter. My grandmother was Rose Merle Southward Payne. My mother is Susan Kay Southward Henderson, Rose's youngest daughter. I would love to receive a free copy of the paper.
Heather M. Crews
Covington, GA

Dear REA,
Thank you for publishing the story about my Dad, Luther Earl Brown, Sr. (May 2009 issue). It was just in time for Fathers Day memories. We shared the Railroad Evangelist magazine at the Brown family reunion. I am keeping the REA ministry in my thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely,
Shirley Zurek
Warrenton, VA

Dear friend,
I sent the last issue of "All Aboard" to the editor of "Dots & Dashes", Mr. Jim Wilson. He replied and said the "All Aboard" was "a very impressive magazine." I also took some to the Railway Clerks meeting as some of them look forward to receiving it. I also took some to the NARVRE annual picnic as they also enjoy receiving our publication.
Yours in Christ,
Paul Myhre
Spokane Valley, WA

Greetings,
Enclosed is a check for four new memberships and subscriptions. We all love the Lord Jesus Christ and have an interest in railroading. Paul Campbell is a great source of knowledge about the railroads. His connections allow us to take rides, speak with crews and visit rail yards.
Thank you.
Truitt Address
Sicklerville, NJ

Hello REA family,
Finished reading the May-August 2009 issue of the Railroad Evangelist magazine and it is a great copy as is all the others. I was 88 in March and do wish I could come to the convention but do try and make it to the local Malaga meetings. Marlene is doing a great job. We sure miss Carl Holt as we all attended his funeral at the Malaga Church. I have many fond and happy memories of past REA conventions. Trust all is doing well.
Yours in Christ,
Bill Mosley
Pennsville, NJ

Hi,
All is well over our way. Louise and I are well and our friends enjoy the Railroad Evangelist magazine. God has been good.
In His Service,
Gerry Olesen
Spring Hill, FL
(NARVRE member. See page 15 for more information on NARVRE)

Dear Friends,
Forgive me, I forgot to renew. However I faithfully pray for you every Thursday. I am an Engineer for BNSF in Needles, California.
Thank you and blessings.
Steve Delano
Mohave Valley, AZ

Dear REA,
Thank you first of all for a wonderful magazine and Ministry of REA. God has blessed you with an incredible ministry. I have thoroughly enjoyed the sample copies that you have sent me. As my wife and I are soon to become pastors we are constantly looking for great ways to share the Gospel. What a non-threatening and fun way you have to share the gospel with people.
Several years ago I built a small HO scale layout that I travel around with to events within the local community. Recently my wife and I decided to use this layout as a ministry outreach tool. We have just named the railroad the TCB4JC Railroad. This is named after our ministry "Taking Care of Business 4 Jesus Christ" (TCB4JC). Perhaps you remember the days of Elvis and TCB.
In any event we are looking forward now to displaying the railroad with this name. This name alone will generate questions from viewers giving us the opportunity to plant a seed of the gospel within them.
Our first display will be Saturday June 6, 2009. The city of Corona where we live has a huge railroad and citrus industry heritage. Corona in the 1940's was known as the lemon capital of the world and all of this citrus traveled away via rail. Today it remains one of the busiest thoroughfares of trains in the country with a triple track mainline through town. Anyway each year Corona host the Annual Lemon Festival combined with a large antiques swap meet and antique car show. Attendance is well over 5,000 people. In addition the museum grounds which are on an old citrus ranch host several art museums and studios along with the Corona Model Railroad Society. A train club on the museum grounds that I helped found in 2001. The model railroad society is building a 1200 sq ft HO scale layout depicting Corona and surrounding areas in 1949 showcasing railroads and their impact on the citrus industry in Southern California.
Thanks and God Bless,
Robb Judkins
Corona, Ca.

Dear brother,
Our granddaughter Anne, an analyst for BNSF in Topeka, Kansas will be married in October to Chris, a BNSF Engineer; Kansas City to Galesburg, ILL or Ft. Madison, Iowa.
God bless you,
Carl Hanks - Retired BN Engineer
Shawnee, KS

Peter Brooks

Nottingham, England
 General Secretary
 British Transport
 Christian Fellowship

THE RAILROADING BOATMAN

I came to know the Lord through model railways! In 1957 as a teenager I joined with a few friends to start a Model Railway Club in my home town of Long Eaton, near Nottingham in England. One of our members was Philip Benham and we became close personal friends, travelling all over Britain to ride on the last steam trains which were vanishing from British Railways at that time. Philip had become a Christian at school and he witnessed to me and led me to faith in Jesus in 1966. We both worked on the railways, Philip became a senior Manager in London and later retired to become manager of the North York Moors Railway, a very scenic tourist line in Northern England. Meantime I went to work at Nottingham station where my boss was John May, now President of the British Transport Christian Fellowship (BTCF) which I joined and now serve as Secretary. Through BTCF I met many Christian friends in England, and also through the International Railway Mission (IRM) I met Christian railway people from many other countries, including Joe Spooner of REA at the IRM Conference in Eastbourne, England in 2007.

I took early retirement in 1997 which gave me more time to indulge in my other interest of boating on the British canals. I now live full-time on a canal boat and travel around the beautiful English countryside at a snails pace meeting other boaters and passers-by, and having joined the Boaters Christian Fellowship (BCF) I am able to share my faith with those I meet using evangelistic literature produced by BCF. I also hand out copies of a "Boaters Psalm" that I wrote, based on Psalm 23. I often invite people onto my boat where they are fascinated to see how I have all home comforts in such a small space. Many, especially children, are amazed to find that I have a model railway running down one side of the cabin, and I hope to write an article about this for **"All Aboard"** in the not too distant future. I thank God that He has given me so many Christian friends in railway and boating circles, both in Britain and other countries including the USA, but most of all I thank Him for giving me such a friend in Jesus who gave His Life that I might have Life more abundantly, not only in this world but through all Eternity!

"Christian Fellowship" = "lots of people in the same boat"!

Peter Brooks Gen Sec BTCF
 Narrowboat "Thingvellir"
 c/o Langdale Drive, Long Eaton
 Nottingham NG10 3PQ ENGLAND

Note: Peter and I shared a wonderful lunch together while at IRM's Conference at Eastbourne in 2007, having some of England's famous "Fish & Chips". Absolutely the best I ever had! - JS



International Railroad Evangelist Arulraj from Chennai, India *shares his missionary journeys*

Paris, France



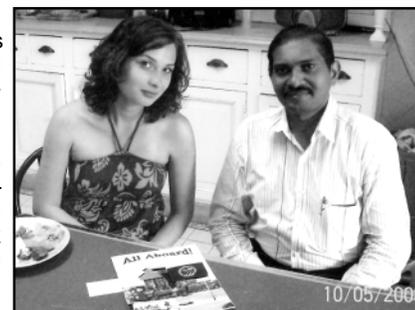
Brother Arulraj, seated second on right is with a group of men and women interested in beginning a Railway Mission work in France. The foremost couple is Bro. Dominique Leuliet, President: "Marche Pour Jesus France" and sister Brigitte Leuliet of Kamelia Productions. Also in the photo is Rev. William Brown along with other church leaders who are interested in helping to establish a French Railway Mission.



In the photograph of the two standing beside Evg. Arulraj, to his left (in the photo) is a Spanish brother who offered his help in locating Spanish Christian friends. He was introduced to me by Captain Mario A. Maldonado of the Salvation Army from Texas who is standing

on the far left. Captain Mario also is offering his help in finding Mexican Christians to encourage them to begin a prayer chapter as well.

In the picture to the right is sister Jana Zlatosova, who I met in Lille, France while ministering to the students there. She came to the luncheon and I had the opportunity to share the Ministry of REA and International Railway Mission with her. She promised to speak to her relatives working in the Slovakian Railways.



In the photo to the left is Susan and John Lunn from England with Evg. Arulraj and Martha of the Swiss Railway Mission to the right, standing in front of the Alps when they met in Switzerland.

International Railway Missions

Invites you to attend their 2010 Conference/Vacation
Turku, FINLAND July 29 - August 6, 2010



Ueli Berger, President of International Railway Missions is standing in front of his Swiss Railway locomotive, a Re420 of the Swiss National Railway, one of Ueli's favorite. Notice the cross which is also the Swiss national emblem. The cross is a continuing reminder of what Christ has done for all of us when He died for the sins of the whole world.

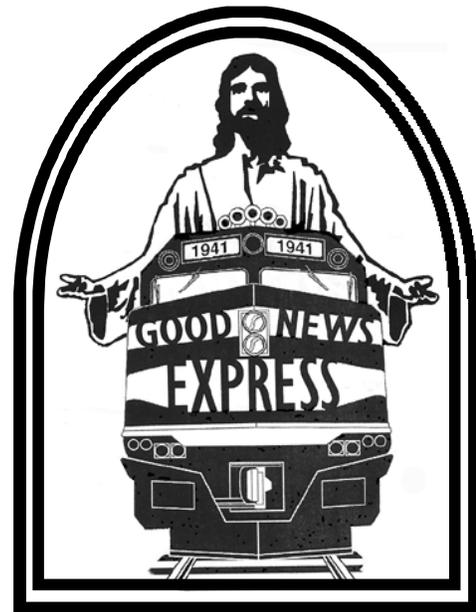
Ueli is inviting you and me to attend the International Railway Missions Conference/vacation that is held every three years in a different country. The coming conference will be hosted by the Finnish Railway Mission that will be held in Turku, Finland.

Turku is about one hundred miles West of Helsinki on the Southwester Finland coast. For more information you can view the IRM web page for more information by going to: www.railway-mission.eu, go to "Downloads" (user name: **irm** password: **maranatha**) Click on "screen version" it will bring up a color pdf brochure. Conference cost is about \$525.00 per person plus airfare.

"A vacation with a purpose".

—Editor

To the right is Ueli and his wife Karen on the train heading for the **British Transportation Christian Fellowship** meeting at Cornwall, England this past summer.



The **Good News** is plain and simple: God loves you so much that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ to die for you so you could live forever with Him. If you will be honest with yourself and with God, He will change your life today and forever. Allow the following scriptures from the Bible to speak directly to your heart and in less than a minute you can pass from death unto life, from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to the power of God and personally experience the genuine love, peace and joy of knowing beyond a doubt your sins are forgiven and that when you die you will live forever with Him. You have HIS word on it! God has given us in His word five incredible promises from His book, Bible:

1. God promises to forgive you when you truly confess your sins to Him. **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to clean us from all unrighteousness."** I John 1:9
2. God promises that anyone who comes to Him will never be turned away. **"the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."** John 6:37
3. God promises to receive you into His family. **"But as many as receive Him, to them He gave to the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."** John 1:12
4. God promises you will never come into judgment if you place your faith in Him. Jesus said, **"he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."** John 5:24
5. God promises eternal life to all who put their faith in Him. **"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."** I John 5:11,12

Don't depend upon your feelings. Trust in the promise of God's Word, the Holy Bible, is our final authority. Christians live by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word. The train diagram illustrates the relationship between **fact** (God and His Word), **faith** (our trust in God and His word) and **feelings** (the result of our faith and obedience) John 14:21.



The train will run with or without the caboose. However, it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, we, as Christians, do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of His Word. Don't put it off, trust Jesus as your Savior today. Write or email us and we will send you some literature that will help you in your new life in Christ .

* (see page 15 for graphic credits)



CROSS OVER



For a donation of any amount the Cross Over Memorial page is a place where both God and your loved ones will be remembered and will help us to continue publishing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the worldwide railroad community through the Railroad Evangelist magazine. All donations are tax deductible.

"Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of the Lord"

*"Weeping may endure for a night,
but joy comes in the morning."*

Psalm 30:5

IF there's is a WILL...THEN there is a way you can continue to help keep the gospel of Jesus Christ going into all the world through the Railroad Evangelist magazine. Please consider including REA in your will.

*Thank you
for your
on going support in
helping to keep the
gospel of Jesus
Christ to be pub-
lished and pro-
claimed through the
printed page.*

I'm Going Home on the Morning Train

A Collection of Railroad & Gospel Songs
Sung by Paul Campbell



"I'm Going Home on the Morning Train" featuring Paul Campbell is a collection of 12 Railroad and Gospel songs recorded in the southern gospel bluegrass style. The CD cover photo of Paul was taken in the mid 1970's while he was working as a Conductor for the Southern Railway.

April 2009

Mark Lewis
Don & Doris Robey
Peter Brooks (GB)
Robert Youngblood
Paul Myhre
Robert Miscera *
Stephen Seidler
Douglas Black *
John Clifford *
Edward F. Griffith
Ann B. Grissom
Faith Rose
Bob Boltz
Dorothy Steffen
Andy Jefferies
Richard Kalmbacher *
Malaga Chapter
Alexandria Chapter
Paul &
Geneva Campbell
Jane Hessler

May 2009

George Bauerschmidt
Edward F. Griffith
Dorothy Steffen
Jerry Kolwinska *
Charles & Mary Green
Bill Mosley
Paul
& Geneva Campbell
Don & Doris Robey
Jane Hessler
Malaga Chapter

June 2009

Rob & Jody Judkins *
Carol Clifton
Steve Delano
Dorothy Steffen
Edward F. Griffith
Gerald Olesen
Appalachian

Bible College *

July 2009

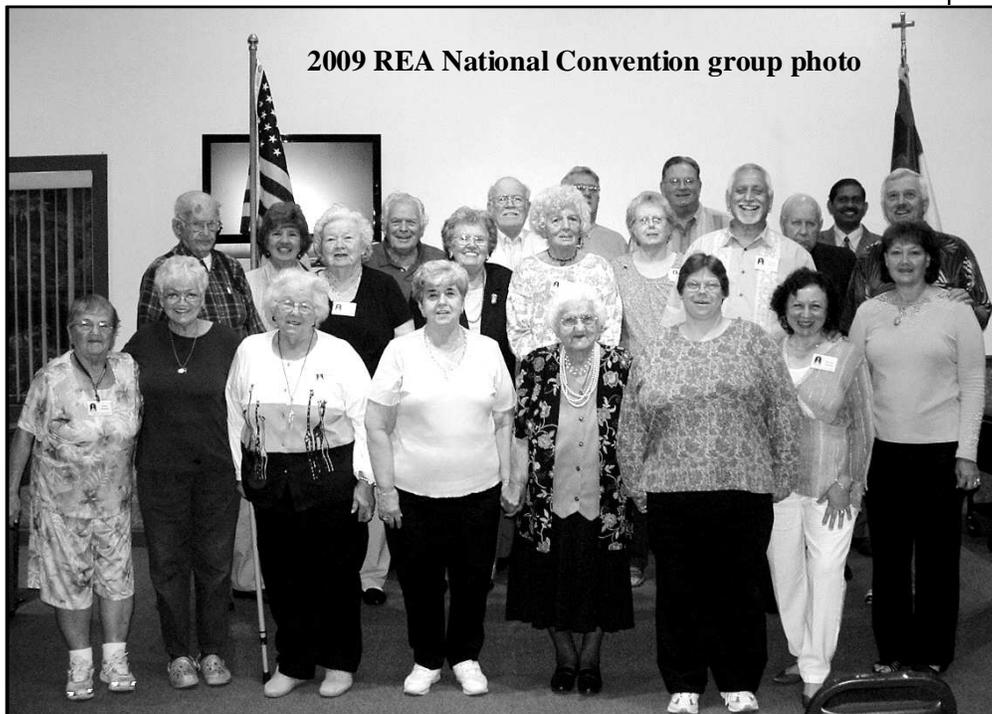
Stella Bailey *
Steve Nutter
Curtis Anderson, Jr
Edward F. Griffith
Shirley Zurek
Dorothy Steffen
Sara Harkey
Stephen Seidler
Don & Doris Robey
Jane Hessler
Malaga Chapter
Alexandria Chapter
Rev. Paul &
Geneva Campbell

August 2009

George & Marlene
Sampson
Carol Clifton

David McIntyre *
Dorothy Steffen
Stan Koci
Paul Myhre
Edward F. Griffith
Sherman Sanders *
Lawrence Perrigo
Jamie Zepeda *
Gary Smith
Sara Harkey
Don & Doris Robey
Jane Hessler
Malaga Chapter
Alexandria Chapter
Rev. Paul &
Geneva Campbell
Dorothy Steffen

* Indicates newmembers



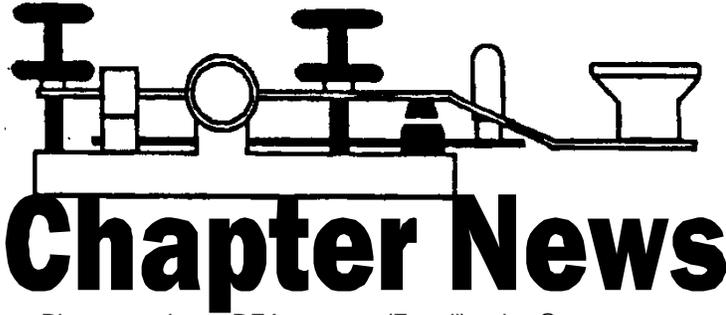
2009 REA National Convention group photo

To order your CD of *"I'm Going Home on the Morning Train"* send \$15.00 (plus \$3.00 for postage and handling) to:
Paul Campbell
603 Aylor Road
Stephen City, VA 22655
(571) 331-2807

E-Mail: campbellrev.paul@yahoo.com

"I'm Going Home on the Morning Train" by Rev. Paul Campbell is one of the most unique collection of railroad and gospels songs ever produced and one day, I believe, will be a collectors item. - Editor

The 2009 REA Convention was blessed with a spirit of unity with progressive improvements to be implemented. A great spiritual atmosphere was enjoyed by all present. Upon departing, many expressed the week was too short and much excitement was felt for our future. Join me in prayer, as we desperately need resources to publish this all important ALL ABOARD. Thank for your response.
Paul Campbell, REA National Chaplain



Chapter News

Please send your REA news to: (E-mail) rrjoe@comcast.net
 REA PO Box 5026 Vancouver, WA 98668

The ALEXANDRIA REA CHAPTER March 2009.

Rev. Paul Campbell opened the annual Water Melon Festival at 6:30 pm. He welcomed all of the visitors along with the Blue Grass Gospel players and singers. We also had visitors from Reedville, VA and also a new prospective member of REA, Daphne Renee Nebselroch only 5 months old (pictured below). She is of the family of Don and Doris Robey. We had 35 in attendance. Bro. Paul opened and prayed over the offering. Then the first song was requested by Mae's granddaughter "Jesus Loves Me". At 7:30 pm Bro. Paul Campbell shared about our convention, (which we had Sept. 14 - 18, 2009 at Carlisle, PA). Paul Campbell sang "Going Home on the morning Train" with Dexter Sanders on the guitar. Noah Leach, age 7, (pictured below), Dexter's grandson, sang with his grandfather "All the children of the world". Bro. Paul Campbell thanked the band and then he prayed and closed our meeting at 8:00 pm.

MALAGA, NJ For more information call Marlene Sampson at (609) 561-6922.

SPOKANE, WA

Contact Paul Myhre as he distributes the Railroad Evangelist in the Spokane area. Call (509) 922-4025.

TALLAHASSEE, FL.

The Railroad Evangelist is distributed to the "Golden Railroaders" at their monthly meeting by Sara Harkey. For more information call: (850) 574-3271.

PORTLAND,OR / VANCOUVER,WA

The Railroad Evangelists are distributed around local railroad shops and yards. Call: (360) 699-7208.

SYRACUSE, NY

For more information, contact: Mrs. Rosalind Ragonese at: (315) 487-9293.



"Railroad Evangelist" Paul Myhre at the Vancouver, WA AMTRAK station getting ready to get on the train back to Spokane. Paul is on the REA Promotion and Publicity Board, he receives 100 copies of the Railroad Evangelist "All Aboard" of each issue and faithfully shares them whenever and wherever he can.

WANTED

PEOPLE who would be interested in beginning a REA chapter or REA Fellowship group in your area. All you need is yourself and one or two others who share your same basic values and interests and you are on your way! For more information on how to begin a REA Chapter or a REA Fellowship see our web page www.RailroadEvangelist.com or write the Editor at:

REA
 PO Box 5026
 Vancouver, WA 98668

Phone: (360) 699-7208
 E-mail: railroadevangelist@comcast.net



Both young and old enjoyed Rev. Paul Campbell and the Blue grass music the was played at the August 2009 Alexandria, VA REA chapter meeting.





The last time . . .

The last time we increased our prices for our bulk subscription price was 23 years ago in 1996. The last time we increased the price of our membership and magazine subscription was eleven years ago in 1998.

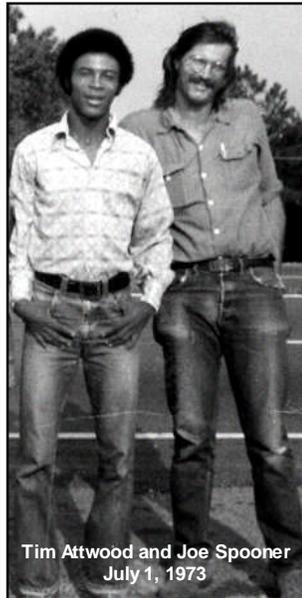
At this past REA National Convention in September 2009 the members voted for a slight increase in our prices.

Yearly membership in REA will go from \$4.00 to \$5.00. Our annual subscription price for the Railroad Evangelist magazine will go from \$8.00 a year to \$10.00, for a total of \$15.00 a year for both.

Our bulk prices will go from \$3.50 to \$5.00 10 copies. For 20 copies, it will go from \$6.00 to \$10.00. For 50 copies, it will go from \$12.50 to \$15.00 and for 100 copies, it will go from \$20.00 to \$25.00. These new price will begin with the Winter 2010 issue.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. The Railroad Evangelist "All Aboard" is still the worlds most unique railway publication in reaching the world-wide railroad community with the Good News of Jesus Christ, and you cannot put a price on that.

<p>47th Biennial NARVRE National Convention La Crosse, Wisconsin</p> <p>May 9, 10, & 11, 2010</p> <p>Radisson Hotel 200 Harbor View Plaza www.narvre.org (412) 563-5611</p>



Tim Attwood and Joe Spooner
July 1, 1973

I read somewhere that if being born the first time hasn't brought you much satisfaction and joy; try being "born again". We don't hear the term "born again" much anymore but Jesus told Nicodemus that "you must be born again" (John 3:7), if you want to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

July 1, 1973 I found myself in the small beach town of Serf City, North Caroline, some 50 miles North of Wilmington. I had been living in my Chevy van for a number of months crisscrossing the United States to see a friend of mine, Elliot Tepper, get married to Mary, his wife to be.

While I was there I had to stay with some friends of Elliot and Mary in Serf City, a young couple, who were planning on becoming pastors, by the name of Bill and Melinda Fish. They were in Serf City doing summer ministry from Dallas Theological Seminary. Their witness to me was loud and clear, not with words but with the genuine love, joy and peace that radiated from their lives. What they had in their lives is what I had been desperately searching for in my own life for the previous seven years.

A day or two after the wedding a young friend of Elliott's by the name of Tim Attwood who was also in Serf City for the wedding asked me; "Joe, do you want to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior"? For seven long years I had been searching for something to try and fill this void in my life, trying drugs, booze, eastern religions, relationships and the arts. Nothing I tried brought me any lasting satisfaction up to this time in my life.

After a long silence, as inward struggle was waging war for my soul, I finally exploded, like Mount St. Helens going off", "Yes, I want Jesus Christ as my personal Savior!"

Within a couple of minutes, after repeating a simple "sinners prayer" with Tim, I rose from my knees thinking..."if this is really true...if everything I have **thought**, if everything I have **said** and if everything I have **done** were completely forgiven and forgotten and my sins are truly washed away by the blood of Jesus on the cross then this is what I desperately needed. Yes, it was really like being "born again", a completely new start, a second chance to do things right in my life, then YES! this is what I wanted.

That was over 26 years ago and today I am still "born again", living in His love, joy and peace that only Jesus can give.

One of my favorite verses from the Old Testament of the Bible is Lamentations 3:22-23, "**Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassion fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.**"

Wow, how incredible is Gods compassion He has for you and me. Dear reader, as long as you have breath, God is being compassionate to you, He is giving you the opportunity for a brand new start, a second chance today to be "born again" right now, it's your decision.

If you decide to believe in the Lord Jesus and receive Him as your Savior, then you will become a child of God, "**who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God**". (John 1:12,13).

Let me close by asking you what Tim asked me, "do you want to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?" I want to encourage you to turn to page 12 and slowly read the Good News Express column and allow Gods word to speak to your heart today. If you choose to receive Jesus today as your personal Savior, you will never, regret it.

- Joe Spooner



Publication Guidelines for the Railroad Evangelist magazine

We are always looking for original railroad related photos, drawings or paintings. We also are looking for stories, articles, personal testimonies (300 - 800 words) or poems that would be of interest to our readers of the Railroad Evangelist magazine. Please submit your material six weeks prior to the next publication date. Currently the Railroad Evangelist magazine is published three times a year for January, May and September. Typed material is appreciated. Material sent in will be returned upon request. For further information or questions contact the editor.

* Graphic credits from page 12 are from Campus Crusade for Christ booklet, "Have you heard of the Four Spiritual Laws"



On a cold winters day, January 29, 1948 this ERIE #3212, Westbound is nearing Mahwah, New Jersey. Photo sent in by Charles Osborne, Murray, Kentucky

Local Contact:

Railroad Evangelistic Association
PO Box 5026
Vancouver, WA 98668

Address Services Requested

NON-PROFIT
or
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Vancouver, WA
PERMIT No. 46