

# All Aboard!

Summer 2010

*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 hobbyists and the rail fan enthusiasts.

**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, 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, and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility 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

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Wilson Riley  
President of REA

## MAINLINE

# Fishers of Men

***“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”***

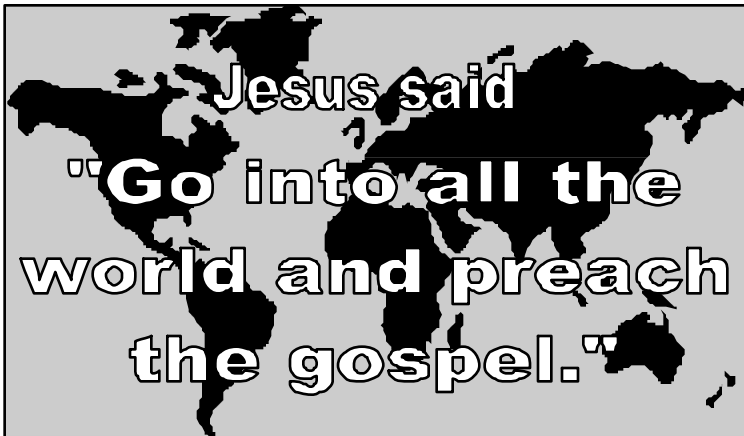
Mathew 4:19

Peter and Andrew made a living as fishermen. One day when Christ called them to become fishers of men, they dropped their nets and became His Disciples. They started fishing for men to be saved in Christ’s name, so they may live in eternity with Him forever. That was more than two thousand years ago.

Today Christ is calling you and me to be fishers of men. There are plenty of fishes out there, but not enough fishermen. Once again in Mark 8:34 Jesus said, ***“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”*** We need to take up our crosses and become fishers of men until He comes again for us, (John 14:3). Let us all labor together for Christ by being fishers of men.

God bless everyone and have a safe summer.

Yours In Christ,  
Wilson Riley



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 every one of you who have joined with this railroad literature evangelistic ministry with your prayers and finances.

We pray and trust God will abundantly bless you for your sacrificial giving as 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 who have a desire to reach the entire railroad community worldwide with the Good News of Jesus Christ. For \$15.00 you will receive your REA Annual membership card (\$5.00) and a one year subscription (\$10.00 - 3 issues) to the RAILROAD EVANGELIST magazine. REA has no paid staff, all proceeds go to printing and mailing the Good News. Thank you.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN REA

Please check the appropriate box.

- I am an active railroad employee.
- I am a 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 \$5.00 for REA membership for one year.
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How did you learn of REA? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# On Track for a Family Reunion

By  
**Josh Summers**  
Garland, Texas

[www.farwestchina.com](http://www.farwestchina.com)

Josh and his wife Tiffany lived in the far western deserts of China for almost 4 years. They now reside in Texas but still carry an unexplained passion for the Chinese people.

My wife and I hadn't spent a holiday with our family in over three years. While living in China we had only been to a church building twice and when we phoned home we were careful never to say the words "God", "Jesus" or "Bible".

It was certainly difficult living in Xinjiang, China's most remote and politically sensitive province, but we knew that God had called us there. The first year our movements had been followed closely by local police and we had been warned that our communications could also be monitored. For this reason we were careful never to say certain "Christian" words over the phone or in email.

We quickly adapted to this minor inconvenience, but what was harder was being so distant from family and friends. Being geographically isolated made us cherish all the more the moments we had with our families, so when my parents called saying they were willing to make the lengthy trip to visit us we were ecstatic!

It wouldn't be an easy trip. We needed to get from the



At each station vendors would sell fruits and drinks for the train passengers during the 10-minute stop.

eastern port city of Shanghai, where they would first arrive, all the way to the capital of our province, the same distance from New York to Seattle. We knew an airplane would have been fast but we didn't care about time. We just wanted to have the opportunity to fellowship together, so we decided that the best place to begin our family reunion would be on a train.

Although many berth options were available, we decided to buy tickets for an entire cabin with four beds and a small table. After we had packed away a bundle of games and an entire bag full of food, we were ready to go. Late one night we boarded the Chinese train and settled in for the 46-hour rail ride to our home in China.



From left to right: my mom, my wife, my younger sister, and me.

Nothing quite reunites a family like spending two days cramped in a tiny train compartment, but we loved it! My wife and I were finally able to tell stories about what God had done in our small desert town; about the underground churches we had attended and the Chinese people we had watched come to know Christ. These were the same stories that were too risky for us to share over

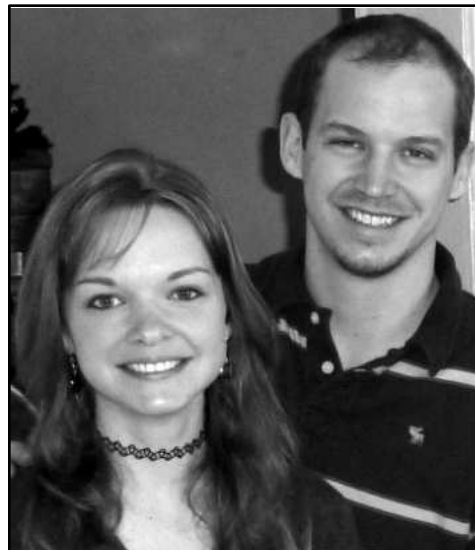
the phone or internet for fear of being discovered by a government that doesn't look kindly upon missionaries.

Likewise my parents talked for hours describing all of the events that we had missed over the past few years being away. Pictures were passed around and laughs were exchanged, all to the soothing sway of a fast-moving train.

Meanwhile the scenery outside the small train window was slowly shifting every hour we traveled. At first all we could see were tall skyscrapers and industrial buildings, but soon that changed to small houses and sprawling farms. In some parts of the country we saw snow while in others parched land. Once we began to reach the desert oasis not far from our home province the scenery switched yet again to rolling sand dunes and never-ending sky. At one point we even passed a herd of camels grazing nearby the tracks to our south.

For some families being huddled together for 46 hours in cramped quarters might be challenging, but God was good to us. This journey ended up being one of the most memorable adventures we've shared as a family.

During our train reunion we also had the wonderful opportunity to join hands and pray. Together we thanked God for keeping us safe while being apart as well as for the chance to reunite. And when we were finished we proudly closed our prayer with four simple words that the seclusion on this train made possible: In **Jesus'** name, Amen.



**Josh & Tiffany Summers**  
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## A new frontier for Railway ministries

The People's Republic of China is the world's largest country by population and is the third largest country by area. China's recent rapid development has made the country a major force in world affairs.

With 1.3 billion people, China is the most populated country in the world. And although millions of people have embraced Christianity, more than 1.2 billion don't know Christ. Many have never heard the Good News of God's grace.

Let us pray that God's grace will continue to increase across China and for our Christian brothers and sisters who do work for the railway system that they will be encouraged to learn of the Railroad Evangelistic Association and International Railway Missions. Let us pray they will find our world-wide web pages, listed below, and be encouraged to begin their own railway ministries through the vast nation of China.

[www.RailroadEvangelist.com](http://www.RailroadEvangelist.com)  
[www.Railway-Missions.eu](http://www.Railway-Missions.eu)



**Railway system of China**

*“And God is able to  
make all grace  
abound towards you.”*

**II Corinthians 9:8**



## The Rolf & Irena Wilhelm Story Switzerland

*Rolf passes many railroad switches each day in his locomotive. They remind him of his switched direction, which brought him a new quality of life – a life with God!*



The following is an account of a series of incidents as told to Hans Udi Beereuter of Switzerland ([www.textlive.ch](http://www.textlive.ch)) by Rolf Wilhelm, President of Switzerland's Christian Transport Fellowship **RailHope** ([www.railhope.ch](http://www.railhope.ch)), and translated by Elisabeth Andreetti, IRM secretary.

One day, as Engineer Rolf Wilhelm was pulling a train through Affoltern am Albis, a canton of Zurich, a freight train loaded with logs suddenly appeared on the tracks ahead. Rolf immediately grabbed the emergency stop lever and sounded the train horn. But the freight train rolling toward him had no locomotive, and no brakes. There was no way of stopping it. At the last possible moment Rolf ran toward the back of his train. The two trains collided, and although both trains were heavily damaged no one was seriously injured, due in part to the relatively slow speed at which they were travelling. It was a close call.

The accident near Zurich was the beginning of a whole series of disasters in Rolf's career as an engineer. Once he was almost crushed between two moving locomotives in a shunting area. A locomotive drove past a "stop" signal, crashed into another engine and tipped over. Rolf again was miraculously unharmed.

The very same day, a railroad crossing barrier operator left the barriers up as Rolf and his train came thundering down the tracks toward the crossing. Rolf's speedometer showed that he was travelling nearly 70 miles per hour as people walked through the open crossing, unaware of the danger. Rolf managed to bring the train to a stop just before it reached the crossing the people were walking through. Mere seconds had saved their lives.

Rolf and his train continued on. But at the next station, he was stopped because his locomotive was on fire. The full stop at the crossing had ignited some grease on the outside of the brakes. The fire was quickly extinguished. A few weeks later Rolf's train nearly collided with a construction train. It turned out that after a railroad repair a switch was wired incorrectly, and both trains had the green light to use the track. It was obvious to Rolf that God was watching over him during these incidents. After the collision at Affoltern Rolf donated 500 Swiss francs to his church in gratitude for his safety, and continued to donate after each incident.

Rolf Wilhelm's marriage was anything but stable from the beginning. His wife Irena wanted to enjoy life after they got married. She was raised in a strict Catholic home and was not allowed to do some of the things that her friends could. When she finally escaped the strong control of her parents, she let loose. She wanted to have fun - dancing, parties, travelling. The couple lived almost exclusively for themselves. They had no children. Rolf had grown up in

poverty and now wanted to enjoy the things his money could buy. "We earned a lot. We both had good jobs, and we also helped Irena's parents with their construction company". They could afford almost anything they wanted - elegant clothes, expensive jewellery, beautiful furniture and long expensive vacations.

Marital fidelity was not taken very seriously either. Both of them had their private lives also, after all. But when Irena moved out one day and moved in with another man, the situation started to grow more and more out of control. Her new partner was violent toward her, and the police were called more than once. Rolf also had a girlfriend. Yet Irena was frequently coming back home to discuss things and to talk with Rolf.



Rolf Wilhelm standing next to his locomotive.

Rolf fell into a state of depression. The mental strain was becoming unbearable. He wanted Irena back. For years the Bible had been lying there beside his bed, gathering dust. Rolf picked it up, and as he started to read, his eyes were opened. He started to realize that the life he had been living was wrong. As he began to pray he felt a peacefulness come into his troubled soul.

The Christian faith was not unknown to Rolf. As children, his mother sent him and his sisters to a United Methodist Church, where they attended Sunday School and joined a youth group. Rolf joined in, but never really believed in God's love and strength.

Irena was also getting desperate. She was spiralling out of control. Her self-centered ways had destroyed her life and her relationships. She suffered from anorexia, and her weight dropped down below 80 pounds. Her love affair didn't empower her in any way. On the contrary, she was torn. She and Rolf had known each other as children, and as neighbourhood kids had played together. Rolf knew as a boy that he wanted to marry this girl some day, and eventually his dream was fulfilled. They had been in love, but now all the love seemed to have vanished. - Continued on page 7

**Life is God's gift to you.  
The way you live it.....is your gift to God.**

Continued from page 6

He followed the advice of his sister. "Just read the New Testament". The words of the Bible, some of which he remembered from his Sunday School classes as a youth, began to dominate his life. Now the words all suddenly came alive, like never before! Rolf fell to his knees and turned his life over to Jesus. As he set a new course, God's will gained in importance, and God's forgiveness began to reshape Rolf's life. Rolf had been reading the Christian Transport Fellowship's (**RailHope**) newsletter, shared with him regularly by one of his friends. He was so impressed by the testimonials in it that, in the midst of his difficult times, Rolf promised to God: "I'm going to get involved with the Christian railroad workers if Irena comes back home again". And then Irena came back! The violence of her partner had driven her back to her husband.

But Irena did not remain faithful. Unwilling to deal with the stress any longer, Rolf told her plainly: "Tomorrow you can leave for good. I refuse to live like this any longer!" Irena realized that now her relationship with Rolf was probably over. She begged him for one last chance. She sought the guidance of a young pastor who had visited the Wilhelms and helped the couple regain some of the ground they had lost in their relationship. Three months later Irena too decided to give her life a new direction. She enrolled in a twelve-month course entitled "Faith Steps" at the Methodist Church. The more Irena learned about God, the more her life improved. She sought God wholeheartedly. The church became a new "home" for Rolf and Irena. Rolf's life also improved greatly. Today he knows it was God's presence that changed his life. "Earlier my life was a rat race. I loved money and thought constantly about what I could buy with it. Today I still like beautiful things, but I don't crave them like I did before". They learned to be content with what they had, without constantly wanting more and more. They now feel a deep sense of peace and security.

In the past eleven years Rolf and Irena have experienced God's love over and over. When important decisions have to be made, they know that they are being guided by God's hand to make the right choices. Their feelings and thoughts align more and more as they years go by. They may not always agree, but through faith they always find a common path. "Our happiness is not in material things, but in God"

Irena has taken various theological, psychological and pastoral courses, and has put her abilities to use helping people. She has a ministry in her Christian community and visits and supports women with difficult life situations. Through education she has cultivated her talent in management and organization.

Rolf and Irena's lives are very different today. They recently booked a vacation away from home. "It was awesome. We were perfectly happy. Money is nothing if life is only fixed on one's ego". Rolf passes many railroad switches each day in his locomotive. They remind him of his switched direction, which brought him a new quality of life – a life with God!



The photo to the left of the Northern Pacific lineup in 1947 of the five brand new 6000 horsepower Diesels that appeared on the cover of the Railroad Evangelist magazine in September 1947.



>Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

>Bumper stickers on a Plumber's truck,  
"We repair what your husband fixed."

>On a Tow truck,  
"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

>The worst possible moment for an atheist is when he feels grateful and has no one to thank.

>Dads dream...to have enough money someday to live the kind of life my wife and kids do!

>All of us can take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

>Why does a slight tax increase cost us two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves us thirty cents?

>Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

>Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

>Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on our front door forever.

>Worry is the darkroom in which negative thoughts can develop.

>Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.

>Don't wait for the Hearse to take you to Church.

>We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads.

*"A cheerful heart  
does good like a medicine"*

Proverbs 17:22 - Living Bible

## Minnesota Railroad Fellowship

By Rev. Stephen Seidler

May 8, 2010 was an historic day – America's First NATIONAL TRAIN DAY. It was also the day that the "Trainman" and two locomotive engineers launched the Twin Cities Chapter of the REA, naming it the MN RAILROAD FELLOWSHIP. "We are located in MN – so we adopted the name Meeting Needs through Railroad Fellowship. Amtrak allowed us to distribute multiple copies of ALL ABOARD at the depot where all the National Train Day festivities were being held. We set up an attractive display at the Twin Cities Model RR Club's semi-annual train show held at the MN State Fairgrounds. Rev. Steve Seidler, 'The Trainman' and ALL ABOARD MR/Rail Fan Editor made the sign and brought along working miniature crossbucks and his G-scale model of the Northern Pacific train that pulled Boston W. Smith's first Chapel Car, 'The Evangel.' It drew a lot of attention. Two locomotive engineers exhibited their enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel by helping to man the display. Mark Lorenz, CP (his testimony appears in this issue) and John Stewart, BNSF (his testimony will appear in the next issue) found out about REA through picking up a copy of ALL ABOARD left at local Hobby Shop. Mark and John are now eager to share the Gospel with their fellow railroaders. We solicited names for our new fellowship among railroad personnel, model railroaders, and rail fans of all ages. We passed out hundreds of ALL ABOARDS (as well as every back issue we had), and personally handed a Gospel tract to everyone that entered the train show. The 'Trainman' talked to a lot of children as well as answering parent's questions. Now we are looking for a permanent meeting location."



Rev. Steve Seidler (REA), John Stewart (BNSF) and Mark Lorenz (CP)



Table display setup to enlist supporters to join MN

Saint Paul, Minnesota, situated on the banks of the Mississippi River and smaller city to her twin, Minneapolis, was originally called "Pig's Eye." As the state capital grew it changed its name, but the railroad activity in South Saint Paul retained the name and the **SOO LINE** facility was called Pig's Eye Yard. The **CANADIAN PACIFIC RWY.** now owns and operates this yard. One of the locomotive engineers working out of this yard discovered that there are other Christian railroaders. That discovery was made reading an ALL ABOARD picked up at a local hobby shop. That engineer is **Mark Lorenz** and he is excited to see a fellowship begin in the Twin Cities to support his efforts to witness to railroaders. Here is the truth of the Word of God in edited personal testimony from **Mark** himself:

"My story goes like this. I was raised a Catholic and had an average religious upbringing, but I always felt like it was something I HAD TO DO. I got involved and weekly participated in all the rituals. It was something I just did, but I never really felt like I was connected to God or that He had any special concern for me. As I grew up and could make my own choices, I chose to leave the church. I thought I could do a better job on my own relating to God. That did not happen! Oh, I believed in my mind and heart that there was a god...there had to be! I believed that Jesus walked on earth but my belief was limited to a historical knowledge."

"I never became addicted to anything or hit rock bottom, turning to the LORD when there were no other options. I didn't get in trouble with the law and no desperate situation forced me to look finally upon the face of the LORD. No, I had a relatively comfortable existence. I always had food to eat and was able to work. I possessed many things that brought me happiness...at least for a while. I had dreams and plenty of time to live them out.

- Continued next page 9

## THE TRUTH FROM PIG'S EYE YARD

By Rev. Stephen Seidler

*(Continued from page 8)* I was right where Satan wanted me. The search began for me in earnest some time after I finished college. I had just been married, bought a new house, and was well on my way to a successful career in retail management. I was visiting my very smart brother in Colorado. He has a genius level IQ, but science is his religion. We were having a discussion about God. He explained to me why he didn't believe and I explained why I did. I remember telling him that who I am as a person (my being) is not a physical thing. There is not a part of me that you could remove that would take away who I am. To me I knew that that spirit, that intangible thing that is me, has to be able to exist on some other plane when my body ceases to carry it. I knew that this was still a long way from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but it was a beginning."



NP Alco RS units # 906 and mate pass the King Midas flour mill on their way to Hill Street Yard, Superior, Wisconsin 1958.

*Photos by Steve Seidler with his Brownie camera.*

"Before knowing Jesus Christ as my Savior, I did not have to suffer through adversity. I did, however, have to overcome complacency. That, I think, is sometimes the hardest thing to overcome. I thank the LORD for never forsaking me and being right behind me when I turned to face Him."

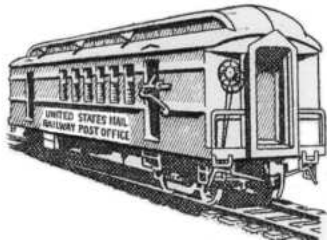
"The years since then have been an amazing journey of faith. As I have studied the Word and grown in my walk, I have felt compelled to serve. I joined the Canadian Pacific Railroad in 2003 and have loved it from the beginning. I have often said that I think it is what I was born to do. I am a locomotive engineer. In many ways it is a very demanding job and unlike any other. We work on call. We travel out of town. We cannot plan anything because you never know if you will be in town or off work when you need to be. It has interfered with regular fellowship and I caused me to think that maybe I needed to leave so God could use me somewhere else.

As I started to think about leaving the railroad, I attended training for Disaster Relief Chaplains. There I met a man who was a corporate chaplain. It then occurred to me that maybe God could use me right where I was and shortly thereafter I was elected as our union's chaplain. I began an outreach to my fellow railroaders. I used to think that the railroad was the most godless place I had ever seen. It was very discouraging at times. However, since the outreach began I have had a co-worker come to know the LORD. I baptized him last August. It was a day filled with great joy. Since then I have found several other fellow Christians in my workplace. There has been a small revival started. We are encouraging each other and as a result people are being bolder with their witness. We have set up several Bible studies and are in the process of beginning a monthly fellowship. **PRAISE GOD FOR ALL HE HAS DONE!**"

"Then I decided to look a little harder for God. Once the search began all kinds of other distractions came into play. My marriage fell apart and I started having trouble at work. Soon my whole life was in turmoil. I knew I had to seek God even harder. I decided I needed to be in fellowship with other believers, so I joined a church to seek out others who would help me in my spiritual quest. God sent an incredible woman into my life. We were long-time friends, but she had been saved as a child. When we started dating we both decided that God was going to be the center of our relationship. We attended church together and met some incredible people who supported us along the way. She was instrumental in helping me get to a place where I would hear the Gospel. Shortly after our son was born in 2001, I accepted Christ as my Savior. We have been through a lot together, but each challenge brings us closer together and closer to God. We have faced a lot of adversity over the years. My faith has been shaken at times, but God sees me through it all. I learn to trust Him more and more each day."



NP switcher #718 works the Old Town Yard switching for the flour and grain mills, Superior, Wisconsin 1958.



# LETTERS

## From our REA MAIL BAG

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



REA,

I wanted to share something that happened yesterday. My wife and I spent the day at Railroad Days 2010 in Brea California. This event draws close to 40,000 attendees each year. Any way we went to the event and had a great day. Of course we had the opportunity to minister a little while we were there. After talking with a gentleman confined to his wheel chair and escorting him around a little bit we parted ways from him and almost immediately ran into a cameraman filming for The Word Network. Now I must admit in addition to my usual train shirt and club membership badge I was also wearing a Jesus hat and a homemade badge that showed the organizations I am a member of. Of course REA is prominently displayed. The reporter had noticed my hat earlier and tried to get to me but lost track of me (no pun intended). Any way he asked if he could interview us and then noticed the REA badge. In the interview I had a brief opportunity to talk about the organization. This will be aired sometime this summer. I will pass on the times and dates when I get them.

Enjoy the day and God Bless  
Rev. Robb and Jody Judkins

Corona, CA

**NOTE: Check out their web page: [www.tcb4jc.com](http://www.tcb4jc.com) and their new FACEBOOK page: TCB4JC Railroad Facebook.**

Dear Sir,

Please send me our REA magazine. I saw a copy of the Railroad Evangelist "All Aboard!" in the MCC store. I am a model railroader and love trains and I am very glad there is a magazine available.

Thank you.

Bernard Wiebe

Portage La Prairie MB Canada

Hello REA,

My name is Chris Howard. I am very interested in joining your organization. Is there a chapter in the Birmingham, AL area? I can't believe your group exists. I was beginning to feel like I was the only one trying to reach out to railroaders. I (well, make that God) published a book in 2007 called "Running God's Spiritual Railroad" in which I explained how the Lord showed me all of the parallels between how a railroad operates and our Christian lives. I know many railroaders and the life the job entails that doesn't lead to much spiritually, if at all. Hence my purpose through reaching them through "their" language. I have been a NS qualified fireman on the steam locomotives at the Tennessee Valley Railroad for about ten years...so I've walked the walk. Was saved by the blood of Christ in 2001 and haven't looked back since. God is always sending me little ideas and "mini sermons". I would love to submit a few for the publication in the future if you would be interested. May God bless you in your journey and I look forward to your response.

In Christ, Chris Howard

Pell City, AL

Dear REA,

I am becoming more adjusted to my new living facility in the Nursing Home. Most of the workers are very nice and kind. I had a wonderful Mothers Day. Received a lovely bouquet from my relatives and talked with many of them on the phone. I am involved in quite a project for a 95 year old, I decided to memorize the 14th chapter of the gospel of John...and I am making progress!

Yours in Christ,  
Dorothy Steffen  
Minot, ND

(Note: Dorothy's husband Jake was past president of REA.)

Greetings,

The Spring issue of "All Aboard!" is another fine and interesting edition. Some of the old time names rang a bell recalling mention of these names at my parents house while I was growing up. The news of the death of Lola J. Blackley and Thelma Rubush Rose are two people who were important to me and I would like to make a donation for the Cross Over Memorial page. My step-mother, Thelma Rose loved God and loved the people of REA and she worked diligently and skillfully with my father, Herman R. Rose who was the editor of the Railroad Evangelist magazine for 39 years along with many other REA officers fulfilling her personal commitment for the cause of Jesus Christ. As family members, we will always treasure the memory of this outstanding and beautiful Christian lady who contributed so much to her family and all those associated with her in life.

In Christian love,  
Faith Rose  
Cincinnati, OH

Hello REA,

Thank you for sending the supply of "All Aboard!". I delivered them to three different railroad yards in the Harrisburg area. I was really surprised as people were looking for the "All Aboard!" magazines when I arrived at the main yard office at Enola.

Blessings,  
Howard Sarford  
Enola, PA

REA,

Thank you for your work in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. I enjoy the "All Aboard!" magazine very much.

Thank you,

Ron Deming  
Franklin, MN

Dear REA,

I am enjoying the new issue. I place copies in a Bookstore here. Let's keep rolling!

Love in the Lord.  
Shirley B. Zurek  
Warrenton, VA



The Railroad Evangelist

## Keeping Track of Railroad ministries around the world

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to introduce myself. I am Mrs. Stella Vasanthkumar, residing in Dubai, United Arab Emirates for the past 30 years.

My husband and I are of Indian ancestry, and are blessed with two daughters and three granddaughters. Mr. Arul Raj of Chennai, India, first introduced me to the Railroad Evangelistic Association. I would like to represent your ministry to the Christian believers in our area. I am enclosing a small love offering for the REA.

May God bless and increase our ministry abundantly through the coming years.

Mrs. Stella Vasanthkumar  
Dubai; United Arab Emirates



International Railroad Evangelist Brother Arulraj from Chennai, India seated at the left with the German Railway Fellowship in Frankfurt, Germany. Seated at the far right is brother is the president of the Railway Fellowship is Jurgen Schmidt. The Frankfurt Railway Station has given the German Railway Fellowship a very nice and spacious to meet and worship the Lord.

***Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm and always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know your labor in the Lord is not in vain.***

1 Corinthians 15:58

## International Railway Missions

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

Turku is about one hundred miles West of Helsinki on the Southwest coast of Finland. For more information you can view the IRM web page at: [www.railway-mission.eu](http://www.railway-mission.eu) The cost of the Conference is about \$525.00 per person plus airfare.

***"A vacation with a purpose"***

# Frank T. Wilson

## A 100 year old railroad man given "Key to the City"

Today my husband, Paul Campbell, and I, Geneva, had the privilege of visiting with a 100 year old railroad man, Frank T. Wilson. Frank was born on May 30th, 1910 in Strasburg, Virginia. In honor of Frank's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, the mayor of the city of Strasburg proclaimed that May 30<sup>th</sup> be known as "Frank T. Wilson Day" and gave Mr. Wilson the "Key to the City" for the day.



Frank Wilson & Rev. Paul Campbell

At the age of 17, Frank started working for the Southern Railroad in Strasburg. After working for 4 years in the local rail yards, Frank became eligible to help fire up the old steam engines. He worked his way up to Flagman, and then to Passenger Conductor. Frank began his railroad career earning 58 cents per day for a 16 hour day! (The Silk Mill paid better wages, a whole dollar for a mere 12 hour day). He recalled the time when, while riding on locomotive Engine #47, he saw up ahead on the tracks a "sun kink". This is a very dangerous condition when, in extremely hot climates, the rails expand in length so much that they have no choice but to warp and buckle. Frank pulled the air brake, stopping the train and saving many lives that day.

Frank retired after 34 years with the railroad, and still lives in Strasburg. He lives by himself now, but has a daughter who lives next door, and a policeman son who lives only 1/2 block away. He is well looked after. Frank's mind is still very sharp, and we enjoyed talking about "old times" and all the buddies that he and Paul Campbell worked with through the years on the Southern Railroad.



### ***Railroad Revival!***

Brother Richard MacCarsey, an REA member from N. Cape May, NJ had a printer friend of his make the two scripture railroad crossing. The one on the left Psalm 85:6, "***Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?***" The one on the right is from Galatians 6:14, "***But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.***"

# Celebrating 69 yrs of Railway Ministry



"Proclaiming the Good News since 1938"

[www.RailroadEvangelist.com](http://www.RailroadEvangelist.com)

Begin planning to attend the 68th National  
**Railroad Evangelistic Association**  
 Convention - Everyone is Welcome!  
**September 13 - 17, 2010**

Located in the peaceful hills of Pennsylvania at the  
 Philip Bongiorno Conference Center  
 430 Union Hall Road Carlisle, PA 17013

**Room rate for the week - including meals:**  
 Double occupancy...\$181.50 (each)  
 Single Occupancy...\$196.50 (each)

Please send in your \$20.00 (non-refundable)  
 deposit as soon as possible to:

**REA Registrar**  
 Mrs. Beverly Salloum  
 720 W. Thomas Street  
 Rome, NY 13440  
**(315) 525-4787 (cell)**  
 E-mail: [revsalloum@cheerful.com](mailto:revsalloum@cheerful.com)

If at all possible please have your convention expense paid  
 in full two weeks prior to the convention. Thank you!

**REGISTRATION to receive name tag and room key is on**  
Monday Sept 25th from 2-5 PM. Dinner at 5:00 PM.

## AREA ATTRACTIONS

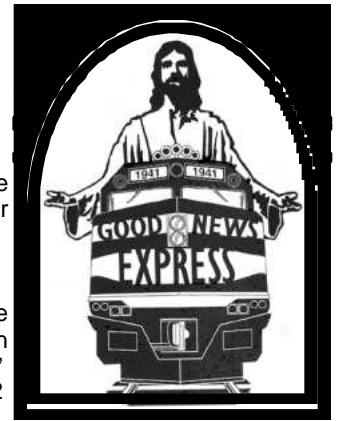
Located on the conference grounds: golf, tennis, basketball, hiking,  
 volleyball, playground equipment plus a whole lot of peace and  
 quiet and wonderful Christian fellowship.

### Located within driving distance is:

- >Historic Carlisle - US Army War College - 10 minutes.
- >Gettysburg - About a 30 minute drive.
- >Hershey - About a 45 minute drive.
- >Strasburg RR community - A little over an hour drive.
- >Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster - A little over an hour.
- >The heart of the Amish in Lancaster - A little over an hour.
- >National Civil War Museum - Harrisburg - About 30 minutes.
- >Washington D.C. - About 2 1/2 hour drive.
- >Valley Forge / Philadelphia - About 3 hours

**-PLUS A WHOLE LOT MORE! -**

# Jesus said...



"I AM the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

"I AM the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12

"I AM the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 6:35

"I AM the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved..." John 10:9

"I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." John 10:11

"I AM the true vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

"I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?." John 11:25,26

Think about this for a moment; either Jesus was a complete fool or He was in total deception, believing a lie, telling people He was the only way to God. Or, He was who He said He was.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 2:16,18

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My words and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." John 5:24

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17

### The Bible says:

"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

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

"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

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal Life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Please consider the words of Jesus carefully as your ultimate conclusion and decision will have eternal consequences.

*"God be merciful to me a sinner. Jesus come into my life and make Yourself real to me, fill me with Your Holy Spirit to help me live for You all the days of my life. In Jesus name. Amen."*



# 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"*

**Ed Johnson** by Rev. Wayne D. Barkley  
**Thelma Rose** by David, Faith and Philip Rose plus Family members  
**Lola Blackmen** by David, Faith and Philip Rose plus Family members  
**Ed Damron** by his REA family

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

Psalm 30:5

*Thank you for your on going support in helping to keep the gospel of Jesus Christ to be published and proclaimed through the printed page.*

### February 2010

Carl Sonne  
James Noel  
Marvin & Odessa Duval  
N.R. Seidelmann  
Edward F. Griffith  
Don & Doris Robey  
Dorothy Steffen  
Malaga Chapter  
Alexandria Chapter  
Paul & Geneva Campbell  
Jane Hessler  
Lorraine Creamer  
Ann & Bob Grissom  
Alma Camp

Bernard Wiebe \*  
PL Schoentube  
Carol Clifton  
Carl & Tamra Stevens  
Edward F. Griffith  
Don & Doris Robey  
Dorothy Steffen  
Malaga Chapter  
Alexandria Chapter  
Paul & Geneva Campbell  
Jane Hessler  
Lorraine Creamer  
Ann & Bob Grissom  
Alma Camp

Richard Maccarsey  
Steve Nutter  
Doris Moffitt  
Howard Sanford  
Joseph Christophel\*  
John Stewart  
Rev Stephen Seidler  
Edward F. Griffith  
Don & Doris Robey  
Dorothy Steffen  
Malaga Chapter  
Alexandria Chapter  
Paul & Geneva Campbell  
Jane Hessler  
Lorraine Creamer  
Ann & Bob Grissom  
Alma Camp

Eric Mitchell \*  
Robert McCartney  
Shirley Zurek  
Paul Mayer \*  
Stella  
Vasanthkumar \*  
Trent Hinkel \*  
Lyle Hinkel \*  
Monte Cantka  
Carol Clifton  
Pat Miles  
Edward F. Griffith  
Don & Doris Robey  
Dorothy Steffen  
Malaga Chapter  
Alexandria Chapter  
Paul & Geneva Campbell  
Jane Hessler  
Lorraine Creamer  
Ann & Bob Grissom  
Alma Camp

### April 2010

Alan McCutchen  
Dorothy Steffen  
Bob Leidigh  
Monte Cantka  
Ronald Deming  
D.J. Watts  
Bob Boltz  
Faith Rose  
Sam Cornett \*

### MAY 2010

Doris Moffitt  
Rev Truitt Andress  
George & Marlene Sampson  
Robert Hunziker \*  
Bill Ruggles \*

\* Indicates new members

### March 2010

Charles & Mary Green  
Rev. Stephen Seidler  
Carl Sonne  
Donald Smith  
Clifford Boone \*  
John Stewart  
John Lund

## 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.

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

## WAKE UP, WATCHMAN!

*"If thou dost not speak to warn the wicked...his blood will require at thine hand"*


Ezekiel 3:38



REA Chaplain, Rev. Paul Campbell had these classic REA *"WAKE UP, WATCHMAN!"* tracts reprinted recently. If you would like some to give or mail out contact:

Rev. Paul Campbell  
603 Aylor Road  
Stephens City, VA 22655

*Life is short  
Death is sure  
Sin the cause  
Christ the cure*



# Chapter News

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

## REA ALEXANDRIA CHAPTER April 2010

Twenty seven people attended our April 2010 gathering. Before having our delicious covered dish meal, we all recited the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and Reverend Paul Campbell conducted the prayer session. Our musicians, Dexter Sanders, Becky Sanders, and Mike Price played and sang "The Sweet Bye And Bye" and "I'll Fly Away". Then Brother Phil Hamnum played his trumpet, and we all sang "I'll Be Using My Bible For A Road Map". Brother Campbell asked Mike Price to pray over the Offering. After the offering was taken, Brother Campbell joined the musicians as they played and sang "Blessed Savior" and "I'm Going Home On The Morning Train".

Brother Phil accepted the prayer requests, and we all joined in prayer. Reverend Campbell laid hands on Ed Damron, stricken with cancer, that he may be completely healed. National Day of Prayer was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, and three of the people celebrated birthdays in March and April. Jesus continues to touch lives. We all sang "Jesus Is The Sweetest Name I Know", and joined Brother Campbell in praying for the people of the world. Our musicians then played "Now The Lord Is Coming For You And Me". At 8:30 PM, at Brother Campbell's request, Rolma Harris closed our meeting in prayer.

For more information contact Wilson Riley: (703) 751-8925

**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 Joe Spooner at: (360) 699-7208.

## SYRACUSE, NY

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

**MN (Minnesota) Railroad Fellowship.** For more information for those living in the North St. Paul or Twin Cities area telephone John Stewart at (cell) 717-731-3334 or Mark Lorenz at (cell) 651-592-6065



Left to right is Becky Sanders, Mike Price, Rev. Paul Campbell and Dexter Sanders providing the music at the April Alexandria REA Chapter.



Malaga REA Chapter had a display table of the Railroad Evangelist magazine "All Aboard!" at the Atlantic City 4H Model RR show this past April. In the photo to the left is Malaga REA president Marlene Sampson handing out a copy of our "All Aboard!" and REA member on the far right is Lorraine Creamer. Photo by REA member N.R. Seidemann.

## Brother Ed Damron - Home with the Lord

Ed Damron went home to be with the Lord on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Ed, along with his wife Helen Booterbaugh, was a long time, faithful member of REA. He could frequently be found at his local McDonalds restaurant in the morning, where he was known as "The Preacher" because he always carried a New Testament in his shirt pocket. Before his retirement, Ed worked as a night watchman for the CIA in Langley, Virginia. He truly loved his job, and it allowed



him many opportunities to read his bible. Two weeks before he died, Ed told his REA Chaplain, Reverend Paul Campbell, how much he appreciated Reverend Campbell driving the 170 mile round-trip to the monthly REA Alexandria Chapter meetings. Brother Paul felt honored to officiate at Ed's service.

Ed Damron with his wife Helen Booterbaugh. They married five years ago after meeting at an REA Convention.

For information on how to begin a REA Chapter or a REA Fellowship in your area see our web page [www.RailroadEvangelist.com](http://www.RailroadEvangelist.com) or write the Editor.



"THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWS NEAR" gold foil stickers, 3 inches long), are once again available through REA. Help spread the word by using them on all you mail correspondence. 100 self adhesive stickers for a gift of any amount.

**"The coming of the Lord draws near"** is taken from a verse in the Bible from the gospel of Luke 21:28, where Jesus said, **"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."**

"These things" Jesus is talking about are all the things that will be taking place prior to His return. I would ask you to read chapter 21 of Luke and chapter 24 of Matthew as they will help you understand the day in which we are living. As with each new day, we are just one more day closer to His return and we must be ready for that day as it clearly teaches us in Matthew 25.

In September of 1965 the number one hit on the pop music charts was Berry McGuire's song, "Eve of Destruction" that says in part, "The eastern world it is exploding violence flarin', bullets loadin'...and you tell me over and over and over again my friend Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction".

"Eve of Destruction" was a "prophetic" warning for each of us to 'wake up' to the hour in which we live. We have no idea what tomorrow may bring, even today could be our last day on earth. We just don't know what waits for us hour by hour, moment by moment and that is why we have to be ready.

The "signs of the times" are growing more clearer with each new day. As I drive home

form work I pass a large billboard advertising a place to meet that has two men kissing. No longer is the phrase "In God We Trust" on the new \$1.00 coin and this is just the tip of the anti-Christ spirit that prevails in our world today. I John 5:19 tells us that **"the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one."** Some say we are living in a post-Christian society, I believe it more with each passing day.

Yes, I believe we need to plan as though we could live to be a 100 years old like Frank T. Wilson, (see story on page 11), but we need to be (spiritually) prepared if the Lord should return for us today.

Remember the words of Jesus that are recorded in John 14:3 when He said, **"And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."** They say that Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

Are you prepared, are you ready if the Lord should come for you today? If not turn to page 12 and read the

words of Jesus and what the Bible says what we must do to escape the judgment of God as depicted in the old REA gospel tract to the left.

"Wake up" dear reader for **"The Coming of the Lord Draws Near"**, are you ready?

- 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. Currently the Railroad Evangelist magazine is published three times a year. Typed material is appreciated. Material sent in will be returned upon request. For further information or questions contact the editor.



**Northern Pacific 550 at Gloster, MN Sept. 1, 1951.**

Don says his hobbies are, "ferroequinology and peridromophily". FERRO=iron/EQUIN=horse/OLOGY=learning. Iron Horse was the name for the railroad locomotive. PERI=round/DROMOS=running/PHLY=collecting. Taking trolley trips was a way of running around. Visit Dons Depot at <http://donsdepot.donrossgroup.net> and his other web page at <http://www.donrossgroup.net>.

**Photo by Don Ross**

**Local Contact:**

Railroad Evangelistic Association  
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