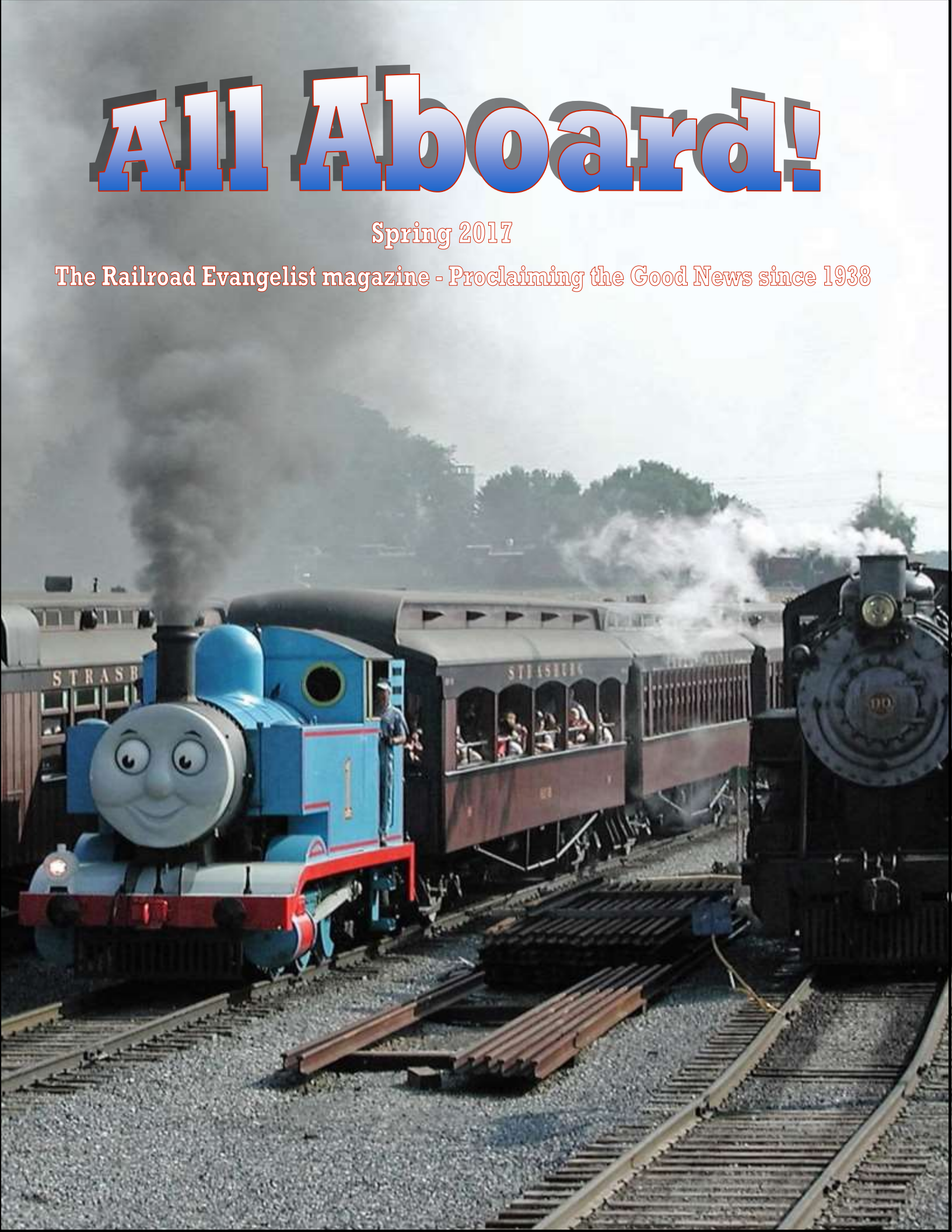
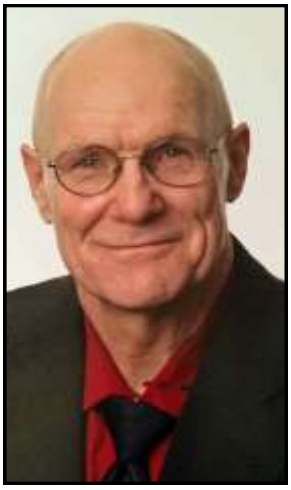
# All Aboard!

Spring 2017

The Railroad Evangelist magazine - Proclaiming the Good News since 1938



# MainLine



Jesus said,

***"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for such is the Kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein"***

Luke 18: 16-17

If there was ever a more urgent time and need for Christians to redouble their efforts to reach children for CHRIST, this is the time. The need is great. In 2017 forty percent of children born in the United States come into this world with no father in their home.

Forty percent of children in the United States have no "Christian memory." What does that mean? Forty percent of all American children have never been inside of a church building nor do they have any idea what goes on in a house of worship. Forty percent of American children have never had a Bible story read to them. They have had no exposure at all to God's Word. Nobody has ever sung a Christian song to them. They have never heard those hymns or choruses of praise that contain so much meaning and inspiration to many of us. I am certain that all of us in REA find these statistics to be heart wrenching.

In this issue of ALL ABOARD in his "Rail Fan and Model Railroader" feature article Pastor Steve Seidler offers wise counsel on training and rearing children and grandchildren in the ways and admonition of the LORD and leading them to CHRIST. Pastor Steve's column features an HO model railroad layout and welcomes back to ALL ABOARD a favorite railroad personality of us all, Thomas the Tank Engine. Pastor Steve shows us creative ways to give children those precious Christian memories. I urge all readers to give special attention to "Rail Fan and Model Railroader" in this issue of the Railroad Evangelist Magazine.

How does REA fit into this scheme of things? Children in the 21st Century still see the railroad employee and operator of the model train layout as somebody larger than life. At REA we must continue our efforts to give all children those much needed Christian memories and lead them to CHRIST. GOD has given REA that special task. They need to know that JESUS loves them because the Bible tells us so.

*I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN A PARABLE: I WILL UTTER DARK (hidden) SAYINGS OF OLD: WHICH WE HAVE HEARD AND KNOWN AND OUR FATHERS HAVE TOLD US. WE WILL NOT HIDE THEM FROM THEIR CHILDREN, SHEWING TO THE GENERATION TO COME THE PRAISES OF THE LORD, AND HIS STRENGTH, AND HIS WONDERFUL WORKS HE HATH DONE."...*Psalm 78:2-4.

May GOD richly bless each of you. Yours in CHRIST, David Wiegand

To the left is "James" from Thomas and Friends. James is operating on the Beaverton (Oregon) Model RR layout.

**"Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day"**

Psalm 96:2

www.RailHopeAmerica.com

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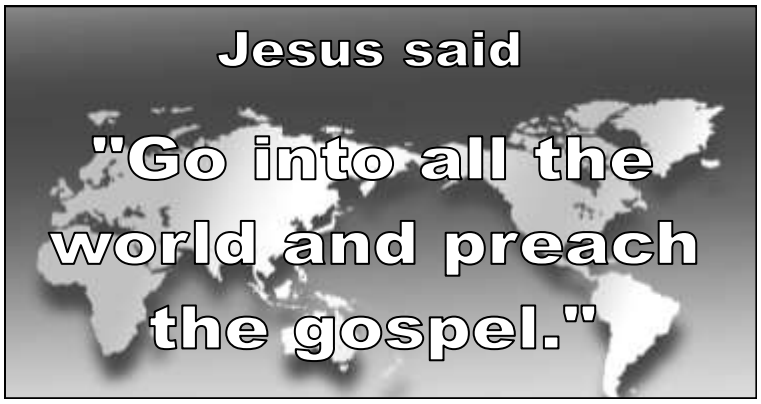
**COVER**: Thomas and a car-load of friends coming into Strasburg, Pennsylvania. Photo by Joe Spooner




**Y**our 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 also 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 support.

**NOW** that we have a new web page: **RailHopeAmerica.com** where one can DONATE online. We ask you to consider making a monthly contribution that can be taken out automatically each month as we continue to co-labor with God in the Railroad Community mission field.

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

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**- 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.

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**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 Inc.

# Rail Fan & Model Railroader by Rev. Stephen R. Seidler

# A DAIRY and a MODEL RAILROAD

**GOT MILK?** It is the basic staple of life in order to grow–physically and spiritually. I Peter 2:2, "Like newborn infants, you long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the LORD is good." Milk starts with contented cows and then moves by rail. Growing up in NW Wisconsin, we would help Ed Holmquist milk his herd of Holsteins. The milk was placed in the iconic stainless steel milk cans to be picked up by truck to take to a dairy or railhead. Ed would put milk in wide-rimmed, gallon glass jars for us to take home – let them sit for a few hours and ¼ to ½ of the contents would be cream at the top. Milk traveled in stainless steel tank trucks and specialized RR tank cars. They did not look like regular tank cars, but rather a large butter tray on a flat car. The cars had high-speed passenger car trucks (note the Borden's Car) and were used from the 1930s to about 1960. Milk cans could be loaded into refrigerated box cars and moved to the dairy. When American Flyer came out with their Gilbert's Grade A Milk car that unloaded little milk cans, I had to have one on my S scale layout. My grandkids still love to press the button and watch the little man in the white coveralls throw another milk can onto the platform. By the way, milk cans were 8-10 gallons, which is about the average daily production of a dairy cow. High speed Milk Trains held priority on the rails, but disappeared by 1960. All milk is handled by truck direct to a local creamery in today's production.

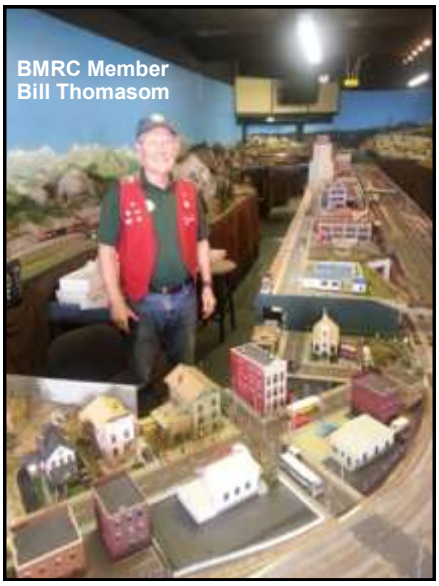
**RR Fact:** January 11th is National Milk Day. The Pet Milk plant in Abingdon, Virginia, was a Norfolk & Western customer. The railroad delivered 100 carloads of fuel, empty cans, and other equipment to the plant in 1932. That same year, N&W transported 243 carloads of evaporated milk from the Pet Milk plant to customers. Box cars on a siding near the plant were filled with boxes of the canned milk, "always fresh and sweet and sanitary, more than twice as rich as regular milk." The N&W Magazine featured milk ("the perfect food") in its November 1932 issue.

**GOT MILK**? In SW Portland, Oregon, we located a unique dairy that not only provides a complete line of dairy products, but caters to model railroaders. Into the 1960s, they used over 50 iconic DIVCO (Detroit Industrial Vehicle Company; see O scale model from my collection above right) Milk Trucks to deliver their product to many homes. The ALPENROSE DAIRY dates back to 1891 when great-grandfather, Florian Cadonau, began delivering milk in three-gallon cans by horse-drawn wagon. In 1916, Florian's son, Henry Cadonau and his wife Rosina took full ownership of the business and named it Alpenrose, after Switzerland's national mountain flower. In 1946, Henry's son, Carl Cadonau Sr., took the reigns and remained in charge of the company until his death in 2004. Today, under the leadership of Carl Cadonau Jr. and Ron Birkand, great-grandsons of Florian, the Alpenrose Dairy continues it's long tradition, remaining a family owned business, and catering to local families.

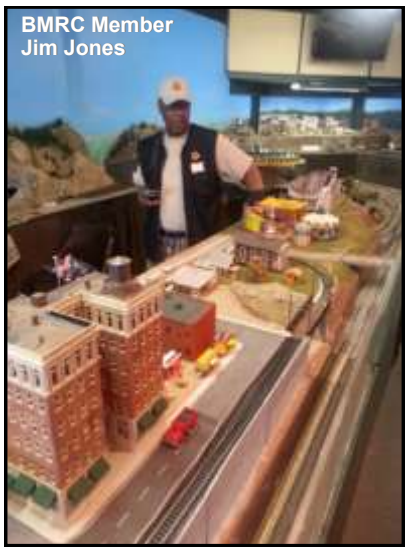
The 51 acre creamery property houses the Circuit d'Alpenrose - a velodrome; Alpenrose Field - multiple professional baseball and softball fields; a quarter-midget racing arena; DAIRYVILLE - a western frontier village with shops and museums; and a special building that houses a permanent model railroad layout. It is home to The BEAVERTON MODEL RAILROAD CLUB.

Members are involved for a variety of reasons, some have interest and skill in creating artistic scenery to bring a sense of realism in the display, others enjoy building and detailing engines and rolling stock. Some join because they wish to run a realistic model railroad, and many members join because they don't have the room or resources to have a layout in their home.

There are many reasons to join, but the best reason is because they love to have fun – sharing their love for the hobby.




The club has a HO scale modular layout that is fully portable, which allows them to "take model railroading to the public." The term modular refers to a type of train layout display with interchangeable sections, called modules. The layout consists of modules 4ft, 6ft or 8ft long by 30in deep. The 6ft must be used in pairs, since the total length of any section must be divisible by 4ft. Modules are owned by members or the club. The sections, along with four corner sections can be connected to form a rectangular or square display. It can be set up in small areas 10' x 10' and can expand to almost any area size. With the aid of a special inside-corner and an additional corner, they can form an "L" shape. With some of the members' skill in electronics and computers, the BMRC has developed a sophisticated but simple-to-use analog and digital control system that the most novice of operators can master. For those looking for more realistic operation with a small bit of challenge, the club has an NCE brand DCC system. The display has a variety of animated areas including a city section with an operating trolley line with many stops, as well as a subway that has people waiting on the platform. BMRC's modular display can be seen at a variety of train shows and other public venues in the local area. It is regularly shown at the Great American Train Show, the Northwest Region National Model Railroad Show, as well as local and regional swap meets. They have had opportunity to display at various libraries and convalescent homes, the Oregon Blueberry Festival, America's Largest Christmas Bazaar, Centennial Celebration of the Portland Union Train Station and the grand opening of the Northbound Light-rail. The layout is a smash hit among the young and old alike. Whether you view the display on the road or at their home in Alpenrose Dairy Land, viewers are so welcome to tour at a more leisurely pace so that they don't miss a detail or animated scene.



On both layouts, visitors will frequently observe Thomas the Tank Engine along with his many railroad "friends." Wide-eyed viewers sparkle just like moving eyes on Thomas. Since the BMRC does not model any set historical period, theme or geographical area, there is no telling what you might find. At any particular display you might see a Hot Tub for Hippos' at the farm or Thomas the Tank Engine rounding a nice curve with his two coaches, "Annie" and "Clarabel" merrily in tow. Some of the more visually stunning scenes at either display include: impressive wood trestle bridges, a wharf scene depicting a working harbor that includes real water and not-so-real sea monsters, and an airport where you may find just about any imaginable form of aircraft. Don't forget the industrial area that includes a grain elevator modeled after the one in Portland next to the Steel Bridge. During winter months, you may even see a snow-covered scene inspired by the Polar Express. Look for a high-speed Milk Train with its BORDEN tank cars or HOOD refrigerated box cars…all thanks to contented cows. **GOT MILK**?

Thomas and Friends is a wonderful way to introduce young children to the world of railroading. Thomas and the photo below are part of the Beaverton Model RR Club.

# UN PLUG – CHUG, CHUG, CHUG!

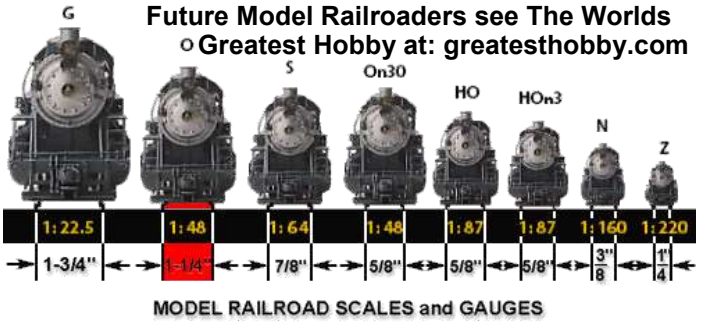
**WARNING: the following article is very personal in nature as I attempt to illustrate the training of children according to God's Word. If you follow God's instructions, you can pass down to grandchildren a love for trains and Scripture.**

I hope you understand that God gets all the glory for the privilege He allowed my wife and I in the rearing of our children. Transfer these thoughts into your own situation. First, if you want to use the Word of God; if you want to use trains and railroading in a positive sense, YOU MUST UNPLUG THE CHILD. They and their devices, good as they may be in an educational way, have children charged up to a different wave-length than what I feel is profitable. Use your hobby, occupation, or personal interest, but invest your time in the life of your child – it is your future - it is their future. You're not just rearing your son/daughter – you're raising somebody's husband/wife; somebody's father/mother and you are rearing your grandchildren which is your heritage. REAR THEM WELL!

Someone, I think my father or one of his close friends, said, "Before I married, I had six theories about raising children. Now, I have six children and no theories." You may not have theories, but you certainly have scriptural direction and instruction. Proverbs 22:6, "**TRAIN** up, or fully equip a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." II Timothy 3:16, we find that "All scripture is profitable for **TRAINING** in righteousness…equipping for every good work." And there is Titus 2:7,12, "Show yourself to be a model of good works…**TRAINING** us to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age." That has been my model railroading challenge all these years.

The classic admonition comes from Deuteronomy 6:4, "The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates." So, after having children, being a parent is hard, but you have the LORD and His Word to guide you. In every situation, (1) Love them unconditionally. Loving someone doesn't mean endorsing his or her behavior. (2) Model the Fruit of the Spirit in front of them as it improves the climate. Gal. 5:22,23
(3) As much as possible, keep open the lines of communication. Always
(4) PRAY! Pray for the child, pray with the child, teach them how to pray intelligently. Thanks to my friend, Dr. David Jeremiah.

I diverge into some poignant illustrations. When my son was 5, we would chase the UP steam locomotives from Denver to Cheyenne. Alongside US 85, he would sit atop our Suburban with his little camera waiting to see the coming train. As the headlight came into view he was so cold and excited that he forgot to take the picture, but it was a father/son learning experience. In the next year, due to men in our church to whom he looked up to, Chad was able to ride the Union Pacific float in the Cheyenne Frontier Days Parade. I cannot begin to tell you the lessons we all learned. Later, I would take him and my history class up into the Rockies to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Moffat Tunnel. He learned to trust high school students, frozen, but sitting on Craig's shoulders to watch the special train approach and proceed into the tunnel. While working on restoring the Georgetown Loop and high bridge, we took a break to sit on a **REA** baggage cart at the Silver Plume Colorado depot and share the experience.



My children have always enjoyed dad's hobby as it was training/learning/sharing family time. Like the weekend we camped in the snow on the backside of Pike's Peak so we could explore the gold mining around Cripple Creek CO. When we moved to Virginia, we continued the learning by camping and visiting historic sites. On one trip, we took in reenactments at Civil War Antietam and then a French & Indian War presentation near Cumberland MD, before riding the Western Maryland steam train to Frostburg. If we visited a hobby shop, my son would help me select items we needed, while my daughter would sit on the counter and talk to the owner. I found out years later she liked to do that because she liked the smell of the pipe smoke. Learning trips were made to New England where we camped in the cranberry bogs at Edaville MA, walked the Freedom Trail in Boston, then camped on the Battenkill River in Vermont so my son and daughter could interview townsfolk in Arlington – folks who had posed for a local painter named Norman Rockwell. A trip to Strasburg PA allowed us to visit all kinds of neat railroad venues, ride the steam trains and even ride behind a life-size Thomas the Tank Engine, and stay overnight at the Red Caboose Inn. My kids still relive the times spent in a caboose, thanks to our good friend and fellow Christian believer, Ken Denlinger, the Proprietor. We took in tourist railroads around the country and always found Thomas riding the rails.

Many parents have found a constructive friend by using Thomas the Tank Engine, as evidenced by the following account from REA member Harry Hassler:

**MY ADVENTURES ON THE ISLAND OF SODOR WITH MY GRANDSON LUKE**.

"It all began when I became a New York City Transit cop in 1965. I had just turned 21 and I always wanted a job where I could go places. I got to Coney Island in Brooklyn and White Plains Road in the Bronx. My first post was at Yankee Stadium. By the time I retired in 1992 I was a certified feroequestrianologist 3rd class. After retirement, I formed the Transit Police Expeditionary Force. Its purpose was to explore new frontiers of crime and to boldly go where no cop has gone before. If you would like to see some of my rail adventures, just google Ardsley True Track or trainsarefun.com. They say, "you don't stop playing with trains because you get old, you get old because you stop playing with trains." Here I was retired and I had nobody to play with. I didn't know anybody else who liked trains.

Just as God had to give Adam a helpmate, God knew I needed a playmate. So God brought my grandson Luke DeMeo into the world. Right from the beginning, Luke loved Thomas the Tank Engine. He had every DVD and book about Thomas. In fact, Luke grew up with an English accent from listening to the characters on the Island of Sodor. After a while, Luke said he wanted to see Thomas in person. We visited a few tourist railroads when Thomas would make a special appearance. But, it still wasn't the Island of Sodor. That is, until the first Thomas theme park in the USA opened in the former Edaville tourist railroad in Carver, Massachusetts in 2015. Thomas Land has over 90 rides and attractions. Go to www.edaville.com.

Thomas the Tank Engine was invented by the Rev. Wilbert Awdry for his son Christopher. The Reverend Awdry was an English vicar who said Christianity and railroads have one thing in common, they both believe they're the ultimate means of getting you to your final destination. So, yes, Luke, there really is a Thomas the Tank Engine, and there really is an Island of Sodor. Grampa says, "You just can't make this stuff up." Here are my grandkids enjoying Mr. Toppenhat and a Day Out with Thomas."

Grandkids, Deana, Luke and Jodi Demeo with Sir Topham Hat.

Your child is a precious treasure from God. Guard him well and invest in him wisely. You have priorities in parenting: (1) You are a person and you have a relationship with God. (2) You are a partner and have a relationship with your spouse. (3) You are a parent and you must have a relationship with your children. (4) You are a pastor/professional and should have a relationship with your church and/or occupation. ITim..4:7,8 is clear for us to follow: **TRAIN** yourself for godliness; for while bodily **TRAINING** is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for your personal life and your children, and for the life to come." Use all the resources at your disposal and tap into mature folks at church for assistance. I was **TRAINED** well as a child and exposed to many positive values so that I could endeavor, with God's help, to keep my children on track. Now, while visiting the Branson Scenic Railway, I'm reminded that I and my children are working together to **TRAIN** up my grandchildren.

Rev. Steve Seidler with grandkids

### *Catch a smile!*

Smiling in infectious,
you can catch it like the flu.
Someone smiled at me today,
And I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner,
And someone saw my grin…
When he smiled I realized,
I'd pass it on to him.
I thought about that smile,
Then I realized its worth.
A single smile just like mine,
Could travel around the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected…
Let's start an epidemic quick
And get the world infected!
***WITH A SMILE!***

# Smile!

A ***smile*** costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a second, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

No one is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and no one is so poor but that he can be made rich by it or share it with someone else.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the sign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged sunshine to the sad, and is an antidote for trouble.

Yet, it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as no one needs a smile as much as he who has none to give.

---

**Morse code** is a method of transmitting text information as a series of on-off tones, lights, or clicks that can be directly understood by a skilled listener or observer without special equipment. It is named for Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph.

Left is Henry & Logan Christensen standing next to the Beaverton Model RR Club permanent display at Alpenrose Dairy, Portland, Oregon.

## Morse Code Bible Verse  Can you figure it out?

| | |
|---|---|
| A . - | T- |
| B - ... | U ..- |
| C -.-. | V ...- |
| D - .. | W .- - |
| E . | X -..- |
| F ..-. | Y -.-- |
| G - - . | Z - - .. |
| H .... | |
| I .. | |
| J . - - - | 1 . - - - - |
| K -.- | 2 .. --- |
| L . -.. | 3 ...- - |
| M - - | 4 ....- |
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# Training

Have you ever taken a train ride? It's a neat way to see the countryside. But a long time ago, it was just about the only way to travel if you wanted to get somewhere quickly. Before trains came along, people had to get around with horses, buggies and wagons. Travel was slow, difficult and often dangerous. The railroads changed everything.

The first railroad built across the United States was finished in 1869. It was a big event. The completion of the transcontinental railroad meant a cross-country trip that took four to six months by covered wagon could be made in just six days.

Early locomotives ran on coal and wood. Though the steam engines were noisy and dirty, in many ways they helped shape America. Out West, there was a lot of empty, open space. But bustling towns, with homes, businesses and schools, soon sprang up along the tracks. As the railways grew, the nation grew.

Today's passenger trains are more comfortable. But they have some things in common with the old-time trains. For one thing, they still run on tracks. Trains can't veer off the tracks. They can only go where tracks have been laid.

The Bible teaches us not to veer away from God's truth. We should always follow the commands God lays out for us in Scripture. We keep our lives on track by living for Jesus and obeying His Word. "So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left" (Deuteronomy 5:32, NIV).

Courtesy of Pentecostal Evangel, April 8, 2012.

Permission to reprint courtesy of Faith, Prayer and Tract League . Grand Rapids, Michigan

Once upon a time there was a happy little train. He had such a good time as he raced down the tracks. He would blow his whistle at all his friends along - the horses in the fields, the ducks on the ponds, the birds in the air. But he noticed something: The horses could run any place they wanted to. The birds could fly anywhere they wished. But he had to stay on his tracks.

Now he was very unhappy. "How can I get off my tracks?'' he wondered. Then he thought of a way. At the curve where he always had to slow down he would speed up instead. So the next day he began to pick up speed several miles before the curve and when he got there, he went right off the tracks! "I'm free!" he shouted as he left those tracks.

He plowed through the soft earth! "How different," he thought. But suddenly he came to a stop! He churned his wheels! He blew his whistle! He got up more steam! But he didn't move an inch! "I'm not free!" he cried. "I'm stuck!"

A horse came trotting over to see the little train. "You silly little train," he said. "I can't go under water or in the air or roll down train tracks. We are only free when we stay where we are supposed to." All boys and girls want to be free. They think they would be very happy if they were free from rules of their parents or from school work or other duties. Older people think the same. They want to be free from rules. They think they will be happy if they can get away from God's laws.

So everybody is like the little train - they have jumped off the track that leads them to God and true joy, and now they are stuck. Now they are not free. The only way to get a train back on the track is for a strong crane to lift it and put it back where it belongs. There is also a way for boys and girls and men and women to "get back on the right track."

The way is to believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Son of God who died for our sins. If we accept Him as our Savior and Friend we once again are on the right track that God created us to be on - the track that leads to joy and peace and Heaven.

# Letters from the Mail Bag

Send correspondence to editor:
REA
PO Box 5026
Vancouver, WA
or e-mail
RailroadEvangelist@comcast.net

REA,
Please send me some extra copies of the Fall 2016 issue. Great cover shot. It attracts attention to railroaders who may not know what the magazine is about. God bless.
Gary Gianotti
Utica, NY

REA,
Thank you for your evangelistic work! Please send me a sample copy of your magazine. Saved by faith, alone, in Christ, alone.
Daniel Staub
Lynn, MA

REA,
I have just completed reading the Fall 2016 issue edition of "All Aboard!" and once again you did an excellent job in putting this magazine together. There are several very interesting stories in it, along with some features on individuals who have made a contribution to God's work through REA.
God bless you. Keep up the good work; you are making a difference.
With warm Christian friendship,
Gil A. Stricklin, Sr.
CH (COL) USA, Retired
Founder & CEO
Market Place Ministries
Railroad Chaplains of America - Plano, Texas

REA,
Thank you for continuing to send me copies of "All Aboard!" even after my subscription expired. I get extra copies from Carol Clifton for me to share with my fellow railroad Workers in Winslow, NJ. Thank you and God bless!
Jessie Cline
Vineland, NJ

REA,
The new REA web page is fantastic! I wish I was a rocket scientist so I could design a web site like that!
Happy Rails,
Harry & Barbara Hassler
Massapequa, NY

## Thoughts to Destiny...

***Watch your thoughts…***
***Thoughts can become your words.***
***Watch and be careful what you say…***
***For your words will become your actions.***
***Your actions will become your habits…***
***Habits will develop and become your character.***
***Your character will become your destiny.***

# Tribute to Rev. Robert Glass

***"I delight to do Thy will, O my God: Yea, Thy law is within my heart."***
Psalm 40:8

Rosalee and I were very saddened to learn of the passing of Rev. Robert (Bob) Glass who had served REA as Assistant National Chaplain. As I was digesting this sad news I recalled having read several articles published by more than one Christian denomination reporting the news that many churches in my State of New Mexico were without pastors and were having difficulties in filling their pulpits on Sunday morning. One cannot help but speculate that many Christian men are disobeying and refusing the call of GOD into full time ministry.

Robert Glass was unlike many individuals struggling with GOD's call into ministry. He said YES to his LORD and served CHRIST's church and ministered to the flock. Robert Glass was a Psalm 40:8 man. He delighted to do the will of God whose law was within his heart. Brother Bob did not enter into the ministry to get rich quick on a forty hour per week work schedule. The minister of the gospel is on call 365-24-7 and all too often for little salary or benefits. Brother Bob's concern was for the souls of his flocks and his legacy is that there many grateful souls in Heaven today and more on the way. The legacy of a Psalm 40:8 saint lives on in eternity.

REA has been blessed abundantly to have the services and wise counsel of many fine Psalm 40:8 pastors and evangelists who answered their divine calling. Our national chaplain Brother Paul Campbell retired early as conductor on the Southern railway so that he could serve in the ministry full time. REA has benefited immensely in recent years from the work, multi-talents and leadership of Revs. Steve Seidler and Alan Harkey. Time and space does not permit me to acknowledge their godly predecessors.

As a fitting memorial to Brother Bob we lay people must seek to be Psalm 40:8 Christians, Whether our calling is on the railroad, in the military, managing the trucker ministry, the office, school house or retirement we must work hard and live in such a fashion as to reflect CHRIST and obey HIS Great Commission. After all REA was founded not by a minister or pastor but rather by a very saintly Psalm 40:8 locomotive engineer.

Scripture tells us, ***"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints"***, Psalm 116:15. That message of eternal hope is further amplified in Psalms 16:11 & 17:15. ***"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness."***

Yours in CHRIST,
David Wiegand
REA President

## Institute of Christian Leadership

is having their Leadership and Equipping Conference May 22 - 26, 2017 in New Jersey. This is open to all pastors and ministry leaders. This Conference is highly recommended by former REA president and current member, **Rev. Magead Salloum** and **International Railroad Evangelist Arulraj** from Chennai, India. To find out more information you can email at: intlpowerministires@gmail.com, you can also see their web site at www.powerministires.info.

**WRONG TRACK?**

Do you have children or grandchildren that have gotten on the wrong track through drug abuse? REA member **Phil Hannum** who has worked in that field for many years has produced three brief videos educating parents on this issue. They can be viewed on You-Tube. Go to Phil's blog at www substancebusforpaents.blogspot.com.
You can also contact Phil at:
dryjordan@gmail.com.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of RAILROAD PASSENGERS

NARP has produced a new video called, **"A Connected America,"** featuring actor, comedian and rail enthusiast, Dan Aykroyd, who talked about the importance of passenger rail. The increasing demand for rail service in this country is trending upward. The video is on the NARP YouTube page. From YouTube.com, search "NARPrail"

## N.A.R.V.R.E.

**National Association of Retired and Veteran Railroad Employees**

Since 1937 NARVRE has worked to help protect the Railroad Retirement Act. To find out more about NARVRE you can call them tool free at **1-800-551-2588.**

## The DEFENDERS

BNSF engineer (retired) Vern Smith, Founder of **The Defenders** challenging men to take the Defenders pledge:

1. I will not purchase or participate in pornography, prostitution or any form of commercial sex industry.
2. I will hold my friends accountable for their actions towards women and children.
3. I will take immediate action to protect those I love from this destructive market.

**The Defenders** is a ministry of Shared Hope International. For more information contact:

**www.DefendersUSA.org**
**(360) 639-8100**

# FRIENDS OF REA

Friend of REA is for those who are incarcerated or confined to a facility who receive REA's Railroad Evangelist, "All Aboard!" and would like to correspond with other REAers.

### Please Note

Be patient in writing our railroad related inmates. Be consistent in writing to them as they need our encouragement, prayers and support. Mail your letters direct to them. If your letters are returned, there is probably no use in re-sending them as addresses change without getting new ones. REMEMBER, do not use address labels or REA stickers on envelopes unless you have the inmates say it is okay.

Jeremy Neff
1015 Commerce Ave.
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Michael Behn # 292354
PO Box 861
Trenton, NJ 08625

Richard F. Bryant #262261-P2-121-S
Gulf Correctional Institution Annex
Ike Steele Rd.
WeWahitchka, FL 32465-0010

Jay E. Glenewinkel #56817-280
FCI
PO Box 5000
Oakdale, LA 71463

Carl Sonne #77049 NCF
138 E. Milan Road
Berlin, NH 03570

David A. Meeks Larson 2 North
Logansport State Hospital
1098 South State Rd 25
Logansport, IN 46947

Michael B. Liebal DC
#979921 E2-125L
Holmes Correctional Institution
3142 Thomas Dr.
Bonifay, FL 32425

Harold Rector c/o Linda Watts
4816 Dayton Blvd. Apt. #5
Chattanooga, TN 37415

Shawn McMullin
Logansport State Hospital
1098 South State Rd 25
Logansport, IN 46947

Jackie R. Childer #301213
Allendale Correctional - F1-B-5
PO Box 1151 / 1057 Revolutionary Trail
Fairfax, SC 29827

Further information contact:

Rev. Steve Seidler
810 18th Street SE
Owatonna, MN 55060

# Laugh Track

>A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

>At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'

> I'm not lazy.
I just enjoy doing nothing.

> So when is this "old enough to know better" suppose to kick in?

>My goal for 2016 was to lose just 10 pounds. Only 15 to go?

>Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

>I may not be funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented….I forgot where I was going with this.

> A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

> Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons & tomatoes. Really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce and cheese. FINE, it was a pizza. I ate a pizza.

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

***Once someone said***
***something nice about me,***
***And although undeserved***
***I knew it to be…***
***I tucked it away on my hearts***
***lowest shelf…***
***until one day I quite***
***surprised even myself***
***and became that***
***something nice***
***someone said about me.***

**REA President** David Wiegand on the "Believe in America Tour" train signaling, 'Victory Ahead' for REA as God increases the influence of REA in the Railroad Community around the world. Begin now to pray, plan and prepare to come to the next REA August 2017.

Begin planning to attend the 76th National **R**ailroad **E**vangelistic **A**ssociation Convention - Everyone is Welcome!
**August 21 – 25, 2017**

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

**Room rate for the week - including meals & tax:**
Double occupancy....$320.00 (each)
Single occupancy….$350.00
Three or more in a room….$290.00 (each)
(Prices subject to change)

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

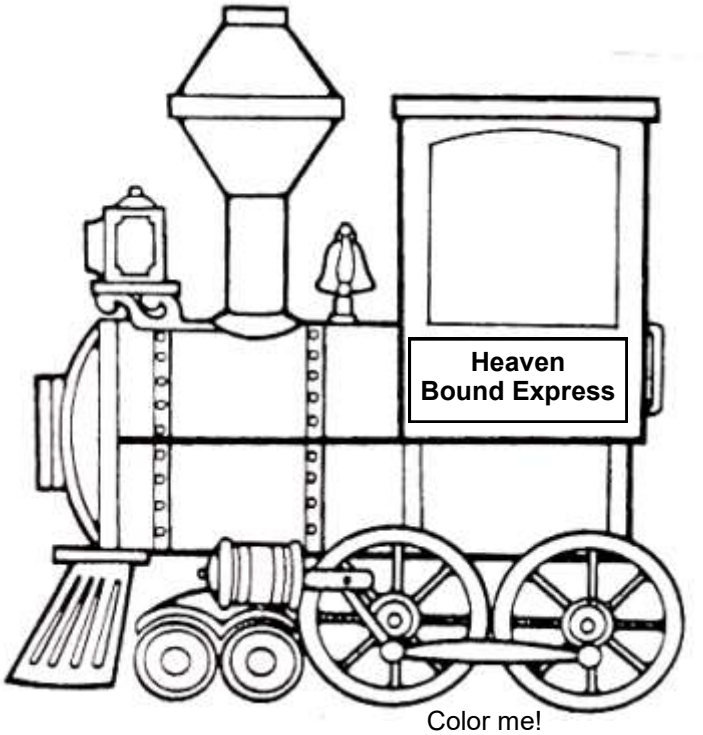
**REA Registrar**
Mrs. Beverly Salloum
720 W. Thomas Street
Rome, NY 13440
**(315) 525-4787** (cell)
E-mail: revsalloum@cheerful.com

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 August 15th from 2-5 PM. Dinner at 5:00 PM.

**AREA ATTRACTIONS**

**Located within driving distance is:**
>Historic Carlisle - US Army War College - 15 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! -***




Color me!

# The Train to Heaven!

**A.** "for **A**ll have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

**B.** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **B**elieves in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

**C.** "If we **C**onfess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9

If you want to get on the *Heaven Bound Express* that will take you to Heaven one day then pray this simple prayer and God will hear you and save you today!

*Jesus come into my life, forgive me of all my sins and make Yourself real to me and help me to live for You all the days of my life, In Jesus name. Amen."*

If you prayed that prayer or something similar then according to the Bible, the word of God, you are saved, that is a **FACT** because you placed your **FAITH** in Christ, **FEELING's** may come and go but the joy of the Lord will lasts forever!

If you prayed that prayer please write us and let us know of your decision to follow Christ and we will pray for you. Write or email: REA Editor, PO Box 5026, Vancouver, WA 98668. Email: RailroadEvangelist@comcast.net.

# 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"***

**Butch Jacobs** by Tina Mooney
**Eddie & John Creamer** by Lorraine Creamer
**Paul Nye** by Joan Nye
**Sharon Wickliff** by George & Marlene Sampson
**Rev. Rober Glass** by Joe Spooner
**Sam Melonas** by Joe Spooner

***"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."*** Psalm 30:5

**Sam G, Melonas**, 95, was born to Greek immigrants on July 27, 1921. He passed away peacefully at his home on September 30, 2016.

Sam grew up in a railroad section house in Stevenson, Washington. where at a young age he developed a strong work ethic by helping his father with railroad bookwork and assisting with the Melonas Brothers Dairy. He graduated from Stevenson High School where he was President of his senior class. He attended Whitman College on a basketball scholarship and was called to U.S. Army service after his sophomore year. He was assigned to military duty in Burma during World War II. Sam would often talk about his 2 years "in the jungle" plagued by mud and rain while building military supply lines.

He returned from military service and continued to work on his life's passion for the railroad. In his 30 year railroad career, primarily as an officer in the engineering Department for the S.P. & S. and Burlington Northern Railways, his greatest accomplishment was hiring hundreds ot employees of every race.

Sam met his wife, Rita, at the train station in Stevenson during a snowstorm. They were married for 30 years. Sam was the ultimate family man, father and friend to all. He is survived by their three sons, Gus, Louis and Steven.

Sam was a member of the Greek Orthodox Church. Whitman College Alumni Association, and served on the Board of Directors for the Columbia Gorge Bank. He was also a longtime City Council member for the City of Stevenson.

Since Sam's passing, calls to the family have been continuous, with many reflecting on his patient, humble and uplifting spirit. Sam's advice to all is "Don't let it get to you," "Go after it." and most importantly. "Be Careful!"

PS Editors note: When your editor, (Joe Spooner) worked for Burlington Northern Railroad in the 1970's Sam Melonas could be seen walking up the track where we would be working, either on a tie or steel gang. He was a very personable man, got along with practically everyone as far as I knew. I was and still am amazed that he knew so many of us gandies (track laborers) by name, "Hi Joe, how ya doing...be careful" and would continue walking down the track greeting the guys.

## Rev. Robert Glass - Home with the Lord

When we rise in the morning, we never know what the day will bring forth. Rosalind Glass told me on the phone that one minute he was at the stove cooking lunch when he said "I feel a little funny", he made it to the chair and Rosalind called 911. They did what they could but brother Bob had already left the house to his eternal home. Brother Robert Glass was a gifted preacher, singer and musician. My favorite times is when he played his coronet and his harmonica at the REA conventions with his wife Rosalind ( whom he married in 2012), accompanying him on the key board. Both of them had been involved with REA for many years prior. Brother Bob also served as REA Assistant National Chaplain for a number of years as well.

In part, the obituary in the Syracuse Post Standard, (Syracuse, NY) gave the following information.
**Reverend Robert A. Glass**,
80, of Liverpool, New York, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, January 9, 2017. Pastor Glass started his ministry at the tender age of 16, in Cumberland, MD, where he was born. He pastored in Syracuse and Liverpool for over fifty years. A graduate of Elim Bible College, Rev. Glass was an accomplished vocalist and master musician. Contributing much to the mission field, he made possible the construction of two churches and the reconstruction of the gymnasium at Valley Forge University, of which pastor Glass was an alumnus. Reverend Glass had a heart of gold, always thinking of and helping others and speaking words of comfort. -END

One day, that will come soon enough we will be joining brother Glass in our eternal home where we will hear those blessed and only words that really matter: ***"Well done, good and faithful servant….enter into the joy of the Lord".***

# REA TODAY

**In the USA today** The Railroad Evangelist magazine ***"All Aboard!"*** goes to all States in the USA except for five of them. The five are *Connecticut, Mississippi, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming*. Will you join with us in praying asking God to help us reach the Railroad Community in each of these States. That would be those working/retired from the rail industry, Model Railroaders and Rail Fans.
Since our last REA Convention in August of this year, those who were there have a renewed dedication in seeing the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ ever increasing in reaching more souls for the Kingdom of God through the printed page. Currently we print 2600 magazines per issue with 475 people on our domestic mailing list.

**Internationally**
The Railroad Evangelist magazine ***"All Aboard!"*** is sent via internet or mailed to: Africa, Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Norway, Switzerland, Scotland, and Sweden.

**For information on how to begin a REA Chapter or a REA Fellowship in your area see our web page www.RailroadEvangelist.com or write the Editor.**

***"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land,"***
II Chronicles 7:14

## New for REA!

Thanks to Donald Howell, Director of Development and Ministry Advancement for REA has made available very nice embroidered REA logo on either a blue or pink polo shirt.

For size, color choice and price (very reasonable) contact Don Howell via telephone or e-mail.

703-988-1966
**RailHopeAmerica@gmail.com**
(soon to be available online)

### Currently REA has two active Chapters

**Alexandria, VA Chapter** meets the 3rd Monday of the month. For more information call Geneva Campbell at (540)-869-7019.

**Malaga, NJ Chapter** meets the 2nd Saturday of the month, For more information call Marlene Sampson at (609) 561-6922.

### Area Contact People

**Lakeland, Florida** call Sara Harkey at (863) 940-9360

**MN (Minnesota)** in North St. Paul or the Twin Cities call John Stewart 651-592-8478 or Mark Lorenz at 651-592-6065. In the Owatonna area call Rev. Steve Seidler at (507) 413-3334

**Long Island, New York** area call Chaplain Harry Hassler at (516) 795-1453.

**Albuquerque, New Mexico** area contact REA President David Wiegand at E-mail: dmwjr@abq.com

**Model Railroaders & Rail Fans**
Rev. Steve Seidler
**Little David & Goliath Model RR**
(507) 413-3334 E-mail: srseidler@q.com

### New Development for REA

**REA (West Coast Office)**
PO Box 5026
Vancouver, Washington 98668

Joe Spooner – Editor.
The Railroad Evangelist magazine "All Aboard!" Send all Railroad Evangelist magazine material to the Editor.

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

**REA (East Coast Office)**
14561 Stephen Street
Nokesville. VA 20181

Don Howell - REA Representative to IRM and Director of Development and Ministry Advancement

Phone: (703) 988-1966
E-mail: RailHopeAmerica@gmail.com

Please continue to send all **membership**, **dues** and **donations** to REA's Secretary/Treasurer
Jim Bliss
255 State Rd. Route 49
Cleveland, NY 13042

## *Through the eyes of a child...wonder, laughter and hope. May we never forget.*

Grandpa Joe with grandson Henry, (17 months) at his first train show in Portland, Oregon.

"One of the joys of being a grandparent is getting to see the world again through the eyes of a child."
- David Suzuki

Pictured is Luke Demeo, grandson of the REA members Harry & Barbara Hassler.

The gospel train of the Lord is built on a roadbed of love with two guiding rails: grace and truth, to keep us on the right track until we cross over the River of Life to our final destination.

The two-fold purpose of REA has always been and will continue to be is to plant the everlasting gospel seed of the word of God through the Railroad Evangelist magazine, ***"All Aboard!"*** and to be a blessing and encouragement to all our brothers and sisters in the railroad community.

REA member Barbara Hassler having a fun time with her grandchildren.

As we continue to travel down the tracks to our eternal home we can see the shadows of life lengthening, (Psalm 102:11). It reminds us a new generation of railroad boys and girls will one day get on board this gospel train. This is our hope and prayer for the future of REA and it is for this reason we have dedicated this issue, primarily to children. This is a long over due first for this publication.

Lots of children, both boys and girls love trains and many of them have been introduced to the train world through Thomas the Tank Engine and his many friends. Owen, my little 18 month old grandson doesn't speak as yet but whenever his picks up his Thomas engine he says, **"Whoo-whoo!** I'm teaching him to say ***"All Aboard!"***

The Bible says, ***"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord"*** Psalm 127:3. Before I became a Christian (July 1, 1973) I would never have thought how blessed my life would be at this time in my life. My wife Dorothy and I were married later in life, we had one daughter and now four grandkids later , who would have thought! I am a very blessed and fortunate, for an "average Joe", who continues to be amazed of Gods amazing grace in my life.

I am and will be forever grateful for Gods mercy as I do not deserve any of the blessings and benefits that are daily given to me.

Let us remember to pray for and bless the children in our lives that one day they will hear the Heavenly whistle blowing **"Whoo-whoo"** and will climb aboard Gods glorious gospel train to heaven.

May the Lord give you grace and opportunity to share this special issue with some child in your life or neighborhood as the gospel call, "whosoever will" continues to go out:

***"All Aboard!"***

Joe Spooner
editor of the
Railroad Evangelist
magazine,
***"All Aboard!"***
since 1993.

Worked as a track laborer for Burlington Northern for about eight years in the 1970's.

**Publication Guidelines for the Railroad Evangelist magazine**

We are always looking for original railroad related photos, drawings and stories, articles, personal testimonies (300 - 800 words) or poems that would be of a spiritual interest to our readers of the **Railroad Evangelist** magazine. Currently the **Railroad Evangelist** magazine is published three times a year. Material received will be returned upon request. For further information or questions contact the editor.

TRAIN up a child to witness for Christ at the TRAIN station. Joliet Union Depot, Joliet IL, where the Santa Fe/BNSF mainline north/south crosses the former Rock Island and Metra Commuter Lines east/west. Chad would go with his dad, Pastor Steve, to pass out Gospel tracts to the embarking commuters at end-of-line, along with occasional Amtrak passengers. When there were no people, they got a perfect chance to watch trains on both mainlines - here Chad watches a flat car load from the Caterpillar Plant in Peoria rumble across the diamonds. As a Christian Rail Fan, this is the best of both worlds.

Four year old Masyn celebrating his 4th birthday is the grandson of Pastor Jamie & Shawn Kingsbury of Vancouver, WA.

As you can see, Masyn loves both, the cake and Thomas!

Notice the big chunk missing on the right corner!

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