All Aboard!

The Railroad Evangelist magazine

"Proclaiming the Good News since 1938"

Fall 2019

MainLine

BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD

Romans 6:23b

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For many of our readers I am a familiar face in the Mainline Column. For our newer readers allow me to introduce myself. My name is David Wiegand. I live in Albuquerque, NM and I am married to Rosalee who is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Brazil. I am a retired railroad employee with forty-one years of service.

Since my first term as REA President I have become increasingly astonished at how divided and hostile society has become. These divisions over political affiliation, race, gender and generation. It seems as if there is too much republican vs. democrat and conservative vs. progressive. Families have become divided over these issues. This divisions have even crept into our churches! These things ought not to be!

More than at any time I can remember people are longing to believe in something greater than themselves and to love and be loved. We must remember that we are commanded first to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength (Mark 12:30). Second we are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves, (Mark 12:31). That is our mission.

It is not about political party, philosophy, race, gender, boomer, generation X or millennial. It is about things eternal. "***BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD"***...Romans 6:23b. It is about Jesus who died on the cross and rose from the dead that we might have that eternal life. "***AND HE (JESUS) IS BEFORE ALL THINGS AND BY HIM (JESUS) ALL THINGS CONSIST"***... Colossians 1:17. Spread the WORD!

May God bless each and every one of you richly.
Yours in CHRIST, David Wiegand REA President

On Sat., 8-17-19 Rosalee and I were in Clifton Forge, VA for our second visit to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Museum. This venue is a worthy destination for all aficionados of the High Iron. The O gauge C&O model railroad inside the former freight depot makes a visit all worthwhile on its own. Attached in this first photo to pictorial are photos of motive power on display. I was surprised to find Engine 7534 an EMD SD40 on display. I performed service on the Santa Fe's SD40's (5000-5019) as engineer and head brakeman. The locomotives of my railroad service are retiring like me. Engine VLIX 4096 is not a real New York Central E9 locomotive as painted. In real life it was the Union Pacific's 912 and Amtrak's 417. On 4-30-71 it had the sad duty of leading the last Train 103 from Chicago to Omaha over Milwaukee Road rails the day before Amtrak began operations. Enjoy the photos of the C&O, steel driving man John Henry's railroad.

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

Psalm 96:2

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Railroad Evangelist

Magazine

For $10.00 a year you will receive one of the most unique non-denominational Christian Railroad magazines ever published. The Railroad Evangelistic Association was founded by Luther S. Harkey (1885-1949) in 1941 with other Christian railroaders in Sanford, Florida.

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COVER: New Mexico's "Rail Runner". Standing is REA President David Wiegand, Jr. with International Railroad Evangelist Arulraj from INDIA

In the cab to the left is Luther S. Harkey, (1885 - 1949), Founder of the Railroad Evangelistic Association in 1941. His hearts desire was to reach his fellow railroad employees with the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. From the first issue in 1938 until now The Railroad Evangelist magazine continues this vital ministry to the entire Railroad Community.

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 _____
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Railroad Evangelistic Association

Our Vision
We envision a day when the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed to all men and women throughout the world-wide railroad community.

Our Mission
To reach all people connected with the railroad industry, including model railroaders and rail fan enthusiasts, with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our Strategy
Working with national and international partners, we produce and distribute The Railroad Evangelist magazine "***All Aboard!"*** in printed and digital form via RailHopeAmerica.com and RHA Facebook to individuals, churches and other related organizations. associated with the railroad community. One-on-one ministry and discipleship are accomplished through the distribution of the magazine, local REA chapters and a growing world-wide prayer railway ministry network. Membership in REA is open to everyone, everywhere to join with us in proclaiming the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire railroad community world-wide***. All Aboard!***

What is Rail Hope America?

The RailHopeAmerica logo identifies the Railroad Evangelistic Association as a leading member of a global network of Railroad Ministries whose common goal is to bring hope of the Gospel of Christ to the world-wide Railroad community.

RailHopeAmerica is currently part of a 25 country network within the RailHope International mission in reaching all people connected to the railroad industry. For more information go to: www.Railway-Mission.net

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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.

2019 REA Convention - Highlights, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Once again this year we had another wonderful REA Convention with great Christian fellowship, worship and encouraging messenges from scripture. We also took care of REA business and planning for the future. Plan now to join us next year in 2020 for our 79th Convention, August 17 - 21, 2020.

By the number. **1.** Group photo. **2.** Malaga REA Chapter. **3.** Alexandria, Virginia REA Chapter. **4.** All the "left overs" without a local chapter. **5.** Our new REA President, David Wiegand, Jr. **6.** A brand new and first time couple Robert and Shirley Herr. **7.** L-R, Joe Spooner, Col. (US Army Retired) Don Howell. Former REA President, Alan Carpenter and Pastor Magead Salloum. **8.** New REA President David Wiegand, Jr. having lunch with Pastor Steve Seidler. REA fellowship is always sweet to reconnect and make new friends.

1. Alan Carpenter and his daughter Lee Achor.
2. Rev. Paul Campbell, National REA Chaplain.
3. Don Howell and Evangelist Arulraj. 4. Rev. Allan Harkey, grandson of REA's founder, LS Harkey.
5. REA's Hallelujah three piece Band. 6. Pastor Magead Salloum bring a message. 7. The amazing Salloum family; Ben, his wife Johanna and our REA registrar Beverley Salloum. 8. International Railroad Evangelist Arulraj from Chennai, India.
9. Chaplain Paul Campbell introducing REA member Richard MacCarsey to read scripture.
10. Rosalee and our new President, David Wiegand, Jr. 11. Rev. Alan and Janet Harkey.
12. Brother Don Howell manning an REA merchandise table.

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

GOLDEN – SPIKED -.. --- -. . DONE!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was to have been a first person account as your editor, Pastor Steve, originally planned to be at the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Point and Ogden, UT. Instead he was moving from Minnesota to the Blue Ridge Mountains of central Virginia. (More in a later issue on the miracles of God in arranging, staging and completing this move.) Instead we are presenting several firsthand accounts here and on page 16 (back cover). Tom Walmsley supplied NPS brochures. We await a fantastic tribute to the celebration from Engineer Jeff Terry, but that will appear in a future issue.

On May 10, 1869, the message "**D O N E**" was sent by telegrapher W.N. Shilling from Promontory Summit, Utah. It set off celebrations from coast to coast as the driving of the Golden Spike completed the Transcontinental Railroad by Irish crews of the Union Pacific RR working west from Omaha NE and Chinese crews of the Central Pacific RR working east from Sacramento CA. The Golden Spike was a ceremonial 17.6 – karat gold final spike driven by Leland Stanford. Actually, four special spikes were presented. *The Golden Spike* was 5 5/8 inches long, weighed 14.03 ounces, and contained $350 worth of gold. Two sides of the spike bore the names of railroad officers and directors. One side was engraved, "The Pacific Railroad ground broke Jan. 8th 1863 and completed May 8th 1869." The fourth side was engraved "**MAY GOD CONTINUE THE UNITY OF OUR COUNTRY AS THIS RAILROAD UNITES THE TWO GREAT OCEANS OF THE WORLD.** Presented David Hewes San Francisco." The top of the spike simply said, "The Last Spike." The Nevada Silver Spike was forged instead of cast. The governor provided 25 ounces of silver which was forged into a rather rough, unpolished 6-inch long, 10 ½ ounce spike bearing only the assayers stamp. The Gold and Silver Spike presented by the Arizona Territory was a composite made from plating an ordinary 6-inch iron spike with gold on the head and silver on the shaft. The highly polished spike was engraved, ribbed with iron clad in silver and crowned with gold Arizona presents her offering to the enterprise that has banded a continent and dictated a pathway to commerce. Presented by Governor Safford." A Second Gold Spike, 5-inches long, 9 ½ ounces, made from $200 worth of gold was inscribed, "With this spike the San Francisco News Letter offers its homage to the great work which has joined the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This month – May, 1869."

A special manufactured spike hammer, or maul, was heavily plated with silver and stamped "Conroy & O'Connor, manufacturer." The final tie into which the spikes were driven was made from California Laurelwood. The 7 ½ foot long, 8x6 inch tie bore a centered silver plaque marked, "The last tie laid on completion of the Pacific Railroad, May, 1869."

Four holes were drilled to accommodate the ceremonial spikes. The spikes were driven with humorous miscues and finalized by actual track workers. Then the pilot cowcatchers of two Rogers Locomotive Works, 4-4-0 engines nestled against each other: the Union Pacific's "No. 119" touched the Central Pacific's "Jupiter". At 12:47 pm. Monday, May 10, 1869, the telegrapher sent the long-awaited message, "D-O-N-E." For the 110th Anniversary in 1972, the National Park Service set up an historic site at Promontory where daily re-enactments of the historical event could be witnessed by the general public. Two replicas of the original locomotives were built to be the central figures of the showcase celebration.

One hundred and fifty years later, the historic event was re-created on May 10, 2019. At the NPS site, The Golden Spike National Historical Park, Promontory Summit UT, the replica "No. 119" and the "Jupiter" touched pilots amidst many festivities that included long overdue recognition of the Chinese contribution to the original track work completion. These events were live-streamed as many Americans became part of the event. Several miles away the completion once-in-a-lifetime celebration was held in Ogden UT. The Union Pacific RR sent its armor-yellow with grey & red trimmed Executive Train from Cheyenne WY. It was pulled by two majestic steam locomotives that in themselves, provided living, breathing history to the event. One was the No. 844, a 4-8-4 FEF-3-Class steam locomotive built December 1944 by ALCO. Its distinction is the fact that it is the only steam locomotive to have never been retired. Out of retirement and public display in California, the UP used No. 4014. It is a 4-8-8-4, 4 cylinder simple articulated locomotive built in 1941 by ALCO, and the only one of 8 remaining in existence from an order of 25. It was rebuilt July 2016 to May 2019. As with the original, a chalk mark written by an unknown worker appears on the smokebox – a simple check mark and two words, "BIG BOY." The two locomotives proudly pulled their train to Ogden where the locomotives were reversed for the celebration. The pilots of 844 and 4014 touched like the replicas at the Golden Spike site. The historic celebrations were witnessed by thousands on site and more via live-steam and photos shared on DVD and in magazines.

Steve Merrill was gracious to send in an article, "Railroad Mile Post 2, Aboard the 316 Express." Here is his edited submission. Thank you, Steve!

Ever wonder how the Transcontinental Railroad got built? One thousand, nine-hundred, twelve miles across the…well, if you're a train nut, I mean, rail fan, you already know the stories of the hardships. There were an unknown number of Chinese workers who died; there were blizzards, buzzards, badlands, and basaltic rock. Let's throw in sicknesses, injuries, strikes, Indian attacks, and just missing the spike and hitting your thumb! The one thing that guaranteed it would be done can be summed up in one word: "leadership."

Probably you know the stories of the Big Four of the Central Pacific; Thomas Durant and Grenville Dodge of the Union Pacific; and Abraham Lincoln who signed the Pacific Railroad Act in 1862 to keep the Union together. There were many others of considerable note, too numerous to mention – and a few too humorous to mention!

While these names stand out, some may be unaware of Theodore Judah, the tireless surveyor and promoter of the railroad. According to a lecture I heard at the California State Railroad Museum, Judah and his wife, Anna Pierce Judah, crossed the Sierras 200 times to locate the original survey for the road. While I have not found any documentation of this, all agree on one thing – Theodore Judah was the visionary whose life mission was the Transcontinental Railroad.

What about the leadership of Daniel Strong, a shop keeper in Dutch Flat, east of modern-day Colfax and on the route of Highway US 80? Scott S. Smith, writing in the March 22, 2016, edition of Investor's Business Daily, wrote the following: *"Back in California in the summer of 1860, Judah received a letter from a storekeeper in the Sierra foothills, Daniel Strong, who told him about an old, unused wagon road through the Donner Pass. They formed a partnership and began meeting with investors in Sacramento. They met with a group of wealthy Californians who would be known as the Big Four…"*

And the rest is history! But at the time it wasn't; it was just a dream of the man known as "Crazy Judah." His dream, which he did not live to see completed, stitched the East and the West together, opened the central regions of the country to development and laid the foundation for the United States to become the Superpower it is today. In the words of Stephen Ambrose, "there was nothing like it in the world." All this happened because of the one indispensable word: "leadership."

God calls some very unlikely people into leadership of His church. One such man was Simon Peter, good old walking-on-the-water, Pete. He didn't start out as a Rock, which is the meaning of the name Peter. When Jesus called him to lead the band of His disciples, his first reaction was, "I'm too sinful! Go away from me, Lord!" But God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. In Mark 3:16, Simon got the call he had been trying to avoid. *"These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter)…Mark 3:16*

At some point in your walk with Jesus Christ, He's going to call you to step up. Maybe not to a big responsibility, but to some place where others will look to you as an example. How will we respond when God calls? Distance yourself from the Lord like Simon; like Moses plead for God to send someone else; or hide in a pit like Gideon. Perhaps we'll need a catastrophic incident of blindness or sickness like Saul of Tarsus to turn us into the leader God wants us to be.

Say YES to God! He is not giving up on making you into an instrument for His glory. Listen! The Conductor, the Holy Spirit, is calling ***"ALL ABOARD!" As far as the East is from the West, God may have a Transcontinental Mission waiting for you.***

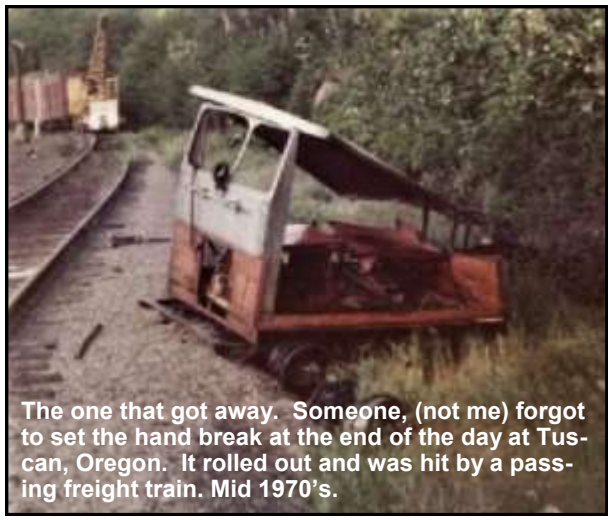
The Railroad Motor Car

Railroad speeders, also known as motor cars, were once an integral and important part of railroad maintenance, allowing crews to both inspect their section of railroad as well as transport them to wherever they may be working. After its inception in the late 19th century the speeder would become a staple on railroads and an important tool of maintenance-of-way crews. Over the years the machine advanced technologically but overall it remained a rather simple thing, usually no more than five or ten feet in length and able to carry 2 to 4 passengers powered by a small, lawnmower-like engine. Eventually, the little contraptions were replaced by today's more economical and useful Hyrail trucks. Speeders, however, have not disappeared altogether as many have formed groups and now operate, with permission, trips all across the country along various branches and secondary railroad lines using these unique machines.

Today, although there are still holdouts here and there, railroads have abandoned the motor car for the versatility of Hyrails. However, by their very nature speeders have become a very popular hobby and it's not uncommon to see them traveling along tourist lines, abandoned routes (with permission), or [with permission] along shortlines. If you own a motor car you can join the American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA) and take excursions on rail lines across the country.

NOTE: The above information was used courtesy of www.american-rails.com/speeders. To find out more about Railroad Speeder and their history visit their web page, lots of great railroad information.

Left is Bob Boltz former BNSF Railroad employee and an avid rail fan. The motor car club he belongs to took a trip on an old NP Line from Cheney to Coulee City, Washington.
Bob is also Vice President of **Inland NW Rail Museum** in Reardan, Washington that is about 22 miles West of Spokane. You can check out their web page at www.inlandnwrailmuseum.com.
I (Editor) have worked with Bob on different rail gangs in the 1970's.



The one that got away. Someone, (not me) forgot to set the hand break at the end of the day at Tuscan, Oregon. It rolled out and was hit by a passing freight train. Mid 1970's.

Your editor next to his BN motor car in front of the Madras, Oregon Depot in the mid 1970's.

A young Gus Melonas working with the Camas, Washington section crew for the Summer in the late 1970's. Gus in now the BNSF Director of Public Affairs over British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Davenport, Washington. 35 Motor Cars, 50 people.

Women in Transit - 1943 the way it was.

The following is an excerpt from the JULY 1943 Volume 11, Number 7 issue of MASS TRANSPORTATION MAGAZINE. Male supervisors of women in the work force during World War II were being given tips on getting more efficiency out of women employees. At this point there was no question whether transit companies should hire women for jobs formerly held by men. The draft and manpower shortage had settled that point. Here are portions of the Eleven Helpful Tips on how to use women to the best advantage of the transit company:

1. Pick young married women – they usually have more of a sense of responsibility than do their unmarried sisters; they're less likely to be flirtatious; as a rule, they need the work or they wouldn't be doing it.
2. When you have to use older women, try to get ones who have worked outside the home. Transportation companies found that women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy. Impress upon older women the importance of friendliness and courtesy.
3. General experience indicates that "husky" girls – those who are just a little on the heavy side – are likely to be more even-tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
4. Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical examination – one covering female conditions. This protects the property and reveals female weaknesses unfit for the job. Transit companies that follow this practice report a surprising number of women turned down for nervous disorders.
5. In breaking in women, stress at the outset the importance of time – a minute or two lost makes serious inroads on schedules. Until this point is gotten across, service is likely to be slowed up.
6. Give women definite day-long schedules to keep busy without bothering management. Women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them but they lack initiative in finding work themselves.
7. Let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be nervous and they are happier with change.
8. Make allowances for feminine psychology – give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day. A girl has more confidence and consequently is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.
9. Be tactful in issuing instructions or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they can't shrug off harsh words the way that men do. Never ridicule a woman - it breaks her spirit and cuts her efficiency.
10. Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. She'll grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much swearing - even though her father or husband swears vociferously.
11. Get enough size variety in operator uniforms that each girl can have a proper fit. This point cannot be stressed too strongly as a means of keeping women in transit happy.

PS
In this day and age the very best and most simple way to treat women and men is to treat others the way you want to be treated, which is known as the "Golden Rule":

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 7:12

The Women of REA

Meet Rosalee Wiegand

My name is Rosalee Alves Pacheco Wiegand. I have lived in Albuquerque, NM for almost 30 years. I am a naturalized citizen of the United States born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I am married to David Wiegand the current President of REA.

I had the privilege of being born into a Christian family. My father was a Baptist preacher. I started attending church while still in my mother's womb and hearing the message of salvation proclaimed every Sunday. I grew up with daily family devotions that helped me to understand clearly the plan of salvation. When I was ten years old I finally came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and recognized that I was a sinner in need of forgiveness for my sins. ***"FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD"...***Romans 3:23. I asked the Lord to forgive my sins and give me new life in Him. My spiritual growth was gradual and twenty years later I had more profound experiences with the Lord that changed my life as I grew in grace and became a more submissive believer.

Today I understand better the will of God for my life. He is my Lord and Savior and friend, Jesus Christ. Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the most important decision a person can make. ***"DELIGHT THYSELF ALSO IN THE LORD; AND HE SHALL GIVE THEE THE DESIRES OF THINE HEART; COMMIT THY WAY UNTO THE LORD; TRUST ALSO IN HIM; AND SHALL BRING IT TO PASS"*** Psalm 37:4-5

Yours in Christ,
Rosalee Alves Pacheco Wiegand

FRIENDS OF REA

Friends 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

NEW RULES in writing inmates. 1. Write only on white paper with black or blue ink, (no gel). 2. Envelopes must be white and have complete address from recipient and sender. 3. Address labels are not allowed. 4. No art work except for pencil drawings. 5. No postcards or greeting cards are allowed. 6. Photos permitted but not Polaroids. 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.

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REA Chapters

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

Malaga, NJ Chapter meets the 2nd Saturday of the month. For more information contact Marlene Sampson at (1-609) 561-6922

How to begin a REA Chapter or a REA/RailHope Fellowship

Beginning a REA/RH Chapter or RH Fellowship can be quite simple. Find two or three (or more) people of like mind who love the Lord and railroading. We suggest you can gather once a month or as often as you like. Meet for coffee or over a meal at a restaurant, or someone's home for a time of prayer, share a devotional or scripture and discuss how your Fellowship can be more effective in reaching out to the Railroad Community in your area with the Gospel. You can structure the Fellowship to what fits your situation best. REA will do all we can to assist you.

For further information
contact the editor at:
rrjoe@comcast.net or write
REA PO Box 5026
Vancouver, WA 98661

NEW
All Aboard!
3 inch stickers. Put on just about anything: shirts, hats, coffee cups, or whatever. For a donation of any amount. Send to: **REA**
PO Box 5026
Vancouver, WA 98668

Want to be a blessing to someone?
You can by sponsoring someone to attend the next 2020 REA Convention in Carlisle, Pennsylvania August 17 - 21, 2020. There are those who would like to attend but find it financially challenging.
The Convention cost will be in the Spring 2020 issue. God bless you!

> Ole, Sven, and Lars are in Mexico for a vacation. They get into a heap of trouble and wake up in jail and find out they all have been sentenced to die in the electric chair.
Sven is the first to be strapped in the electric chair and the guards ask if he has any last words. Sven says, "I yust gradeated from St. Yohn's College in Minnesooota, with a degree in divinity studies, and I am a good Christian man ... but if it is God's will for me to die, so be it." The guards throw the switch and nothing happens. The guards get on their knees and say, "You are surely a Godly man and we are going to let you go."
Lars is next to be strapped into the electric chair and the guards ask if he has any last words. Lars says, "I yust graduated from Concordia college in Moorhead, Minnisooota, with a degree in divinity studies, and I am a God fearing man. If it is my time to die, it is God's will."
The guards throw the switch and nothing happens. The guards say, "You also are a Godly man and we are going to let you go." **Ole** is the last to be strapped into the electric chair. The guards ask him if he has any last words. Ole says, "Vel, I yust gradueted from Iowa State in electrical engineering... and I'll tell ya right now, if you don't plug dat ting in, it ain't gonna work."

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

> Remember to set your scale back 10 lb. this week.

> I am one step away from being rich, all I need now is money.

> **Three boys** are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The **first boy** says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him $50.' The **second boy** says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him $100.' The **third boy** says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes four people to collect all the money!'

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

Florida VBS on TRACK!

Earlier this year Tabernacle United Methodist Church (Erma, NJ) wanted to come up with a Vacation Bible School program, one that would be different than other area churches. The 'Train Theme' idea was brought up. An email was sent out to those interested. Ideas started being shared, excitement mounted, planning began, work started and here is the final result!

We used ***Soul Train*** by Libby Allen as our 'theme song' (you can hear it on her website) and we had some very talented people make some VERY AWESOME creations out of cardboard!

Our 'Stations' and 'Station Masters' were: *Entertainment Station* (games) with Sue Rea and Grace Scheyhing, *Creativity Station* (crafts) with Joan Johnson and Deb Lawless, *Melody Station* (songs) with Linda Monge, Sarah Jefferis and Pastor Glen Scheyhing (on the soundboard), *Filling Station* with Sandy Flud, and *Story Time Station* (Bible Lesson) with Lynn Jefferis. We also had various 'Porters' escorting the children from one 'Station' to another.

Paul Breden and Rich MacCarsey, (Rich is a REA member) set up a small platform with some of Paul's trains so that the children could watch them during snack time.

We used the overall theme of Matthew 19:14 *"But Jesus said, **"Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."*** as we invited the children to "Ride the Rails to Heaven" on the SonLight Railroad! Everyone met at the 'Good News Junction' each night of our Journey.

Our first night was about the Engine: GOD. God is Powerful, He is in control. We used ***"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."*** Genesis 1:1 as our verse for the day and talked about Creation.

Day Two found us talking about the Dining Car/Sleeper Car and about how God provides our needs. Our lesson was based on John 6:1-14 (Feeding the 5000), but our verse was John 6:35 *Then Jesus said, **"I am the bread that gives life. He who comes to me will never be hungry. He who believes in me will never be thirsty".***

Day Three was the Passenger Car. God wants us to 'pick up passengers' as we witness for Him and tell others about Him. For this, we used Mark 1:17 *Jesus said to them, **"Come and follow me. I will make you fishermen for men."*** as our verse for the day. We shared how Jesus wants us to act like Him (good, kind, no lying, no stealing, no cheating, etc.) while we share this Good News.

Day Four, our final day, we focused on the Tracks- Jesus wants us to stay on the right track (path) and follow the rules God gave us as Jesus is the way to Heaven. Even though we used Proverbs 22:6 (*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it)* as our verse, our lesson was the 10 Commandments. We also pointed out that if we love God with all of our heart and love our neighbor as we love ourselves, all of the Commandments will 'fall into place'.

After the children sang and recited their memory verses for our Closing Program, we gave each child a copy of the summer edition of ***ALL ABOARD!*** and took their picture standing around our *Glory Bound* train in the sanctuary. (I have to tell you, Rich orders ***ALL ABOARD!*** and distributes them around town. After he found out about our VBS theme, he went around and asked for them back so the children could each have a copy!) We then enjoyed some snacks but the big surprise was the train ride out back in the parking lot! Each child was given a train shaped whistle to take home. I'm not sure who had more fun, the children or the adults, but we pray that many seeds were planted this week!

We are praying that God will use this VBS program to help us start a Bible-Based Train Club for the youth in the area and would appreciate your prayers in this matter as well as any thoughts and ideas that might help us in this area. To God be the glory!

Editors note: If you have any children related train tracks or whatever ideas contact Lynn at: avonreplynn@hotmail.com

Begin planning to attend the 78th National **R**ailroad **E**vangelistic **A**ssociation Convention - Everyone is Welcome!

August 17– 21, 2020

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....$330.00 (each)
Single occupancy….$365.00

Children 5-12 years old $165.00
Children 13-17 years old $225.00

NOTE: All Conference fees must be paid no later than JULY 24, 2019 to our REA Registrar. Thank you!
REGISTRATION: Receive name tag and room key is on Monday August 17th from 4-5 PM. Dinner at 5:00 PM.

REA Registrar
Mrs. Beverly Salloum
PO Box 322
Rome, NY 13442
(315) 368-8612 (cell - prefers texting)
E-mail: rev.salloum@gmail.com

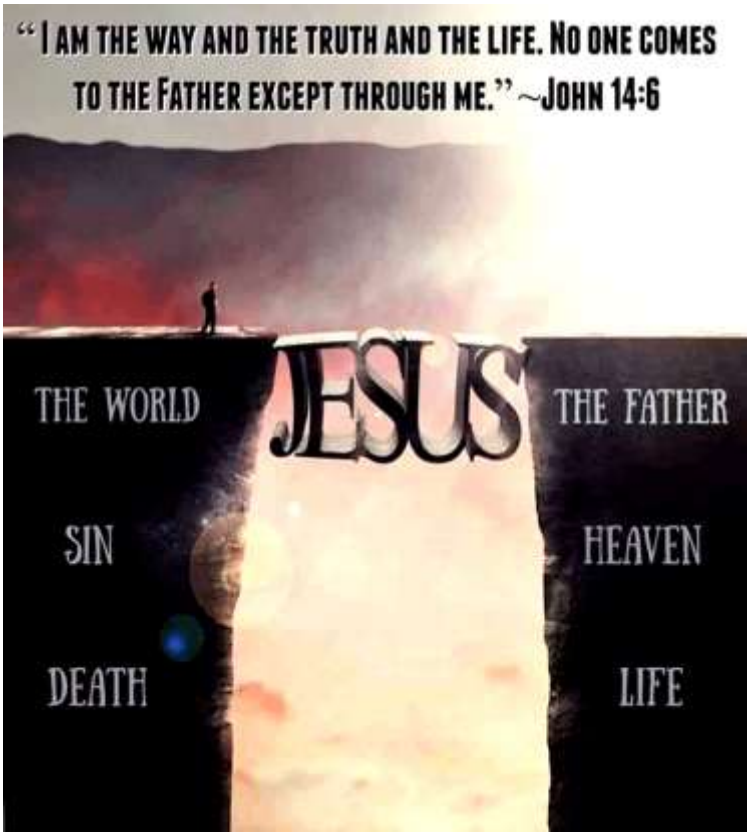
NOTE:
Day guests $15.00 plus any meals

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Located within driving distance is:

>**NEW!** MUSEUM of the BIBLE. Washington DC.
>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

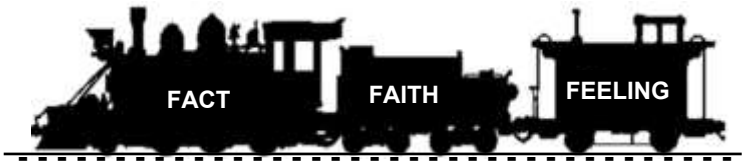
-PLUS A WHOLE LOT MORE! -



The above graphic clearly depicts the free will we all have been given. We can continue the way we are and meet the internal fate of death and despair or take a step of faith by trusting what Jesus said of Himself to be true and inherit everlasting joy for all eternity. Jesus said, "***For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 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 3:17,18)

We pray that you will make the choice to cross the bridge by receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You can do it right where you are, it is that simple. You can use the following prayer as a model. It's not so much the words but the intent of your heart. God's grace will come to you when you take that first step of faith.

"God, be merciful to me a sinner. I repent and renounce all my sins, both known and unknown. I ask you Lord Jesus to forgive me, come into my life, make yourself real to me and fill me now with your Holy Spirit to help and empower me to live for You all the days of my life. In Jesus name. Amen!



As illustrated by the train graphic above representing you have placed your **faith** (trust, confidence) in what Jesus has done for you, **fact**, on the cross according to the Bible, the Word of God. Our salvation is not based on the way we **feel** but in the **fact** that our **faith** is founded in the word of God. But Jesus did say, *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you...These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:7&11).*

For further help write us for our **"SWITCHING"** brochure. Also free Bible Studies go to **www.PTL.org** (Pocket Testament League).

Cross Over

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

For a donation of any amount to the Cross Over Memorial page is a place where both God and your loved ones will be remembered and honored as it will help REA to continue publishing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the worldwide railroad community through the Railroad Evangelist magazine.

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

Eddie Creamer by mother Lorraine Creamer
Johnny Creamer by mother Lorraine Creamer
George Sampson by Lorraine Creamer
George Sampson by wife Marlene Sampson
Sharon Wickliff by mother Marlene Sampson
Helen Bootenbraugh by her REA family

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."
Revelations 21:4

REA member, Richard Macarsey not only rode his bicycle all the was from N. Cape May, NJ to the REA convention, which took four days, he also rode his bike to the end of the line in Callicoon, NY!

When Tomorrow starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me,
please try to understand,
that an angel came and called my name,
and took me by the hand;
the angel said my place was ready,
in Heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind
all those I dearly love.
But when I walked through Heaven's gate,
I felt so much at home,
for God looked down,
smiled at me and told me
"Welcome Home."
So when tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.

Had a great time this past September as REA had two tables at the SW Washington Model Railroad Swap meet. My daughter Callie came out bringing our two youngest grand-kids with her, Owen 4, and Cora 2 1/2. I met some great people and signed up a new subscriber for our publication.

Life's Journey

Life is like a journey, taken on a train, with a pair of travelers at each window pane;
I may sit beside you the whole journey through, or I may be seated elsewhere, never knowing you;
but if fate should place me to sit at your side, Let's be pleasant travelers, it's so short a ride.

RailHope International

Formally International Railway Missions

Attendees from around the world
went to the Netherlands for the
RailHope International Convention in August 2019

Message for REA Convention 2019

Dear Christian friends of RailHope America!

Last June, my wife Karin and I visited our son Nathanael in California. In our journey to US we also went to the Rail Road Museum in Sacramento California. In the souvenir shop I have found this golden Spike. The golden spike reminds us of the 150 years celebration of the Transcontinental Railroad that was held in Promontory, Utah May 10, 2019.

The fourth side of this spike was engraved: “May God continue the unity of our country, as this Railroad unites the two great Oceans of the world”.

Unity in Christ is one of the strongest witness for Christians in the world. Jesus prays in the Gospel of John, Chapter 17 Verse 21 for all of us as follows: “***I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”***

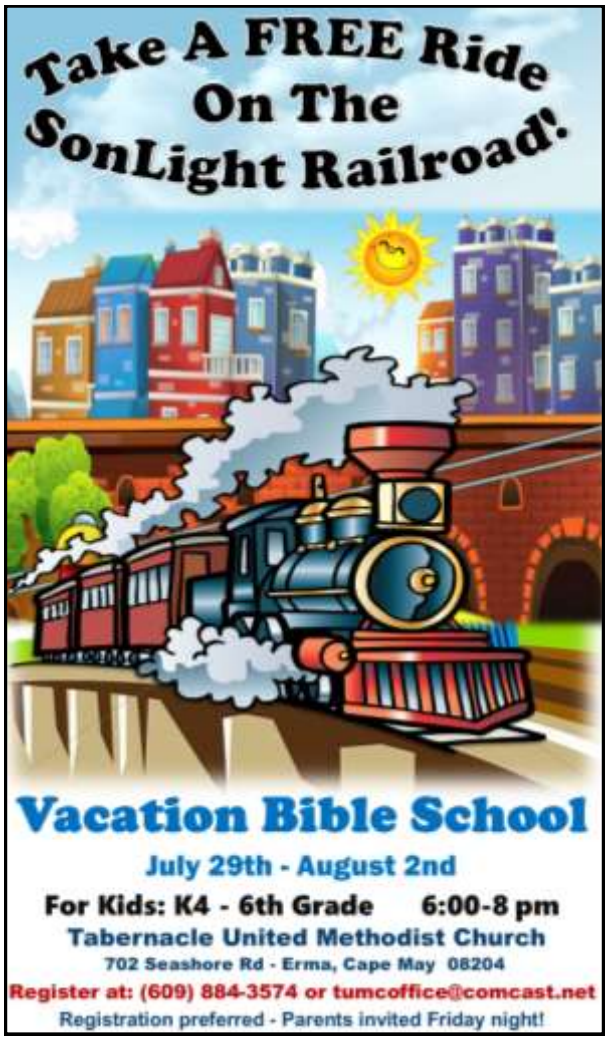
In beginning of August, we experienced international fellowship with many Christian railroaders in Lunteren, Netherlands. Such “Festivals of Hope” includes also to expressing our faith in various ways, exchanging experiences and ideas to encourage each other for our mission work. We celebrated unity in the diversity. But the foundation of unity must be Christ with his unconditional love.

Back to the spike: It wasn’t nails that held Jesus to the cross, but his love for you and me.

I hope and pray that His love fills your hearts in your convention. May He grant you with new active members, who are able to continue your great mission work.

I am really glad that RailHope America is member and partner of the umbrella organization of RailHope International. As RailHope International we are engaged in a great work. Our vision is to network Christians in the railways all over the world.

Every blessings to you!
Ulrich Berger,
President of RailHope International



Jesus said,
"Let the children come to me …
for of such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 19:14

How blessed I was when I saw the above photo that was sent to me from Lynn who is a member of the Tabernacle United Methodist Church in New Jersey of their Summer VBS program, (see page 11).

Everyone was excited Lynn said about the VBS program and now they are looking at the possibilities of developing a railroad theme children's ministry for an ongoing outreach to the children of their community.

I told Lynn I would put the word out through this publication that if anyone has any ideas or railroad related material such as gospel tracks, poems, coloring books or other ideas related to children they could share, they can send them to me and I will forward it on to them.

It has been a long time desire of mine to see REA develop a railroad theme VBS type of ministry for a church, who knows, maybe God has something more in store for us to reach a new generation of children for the inheritance of Christ and His Kingdom.

As we look forward to 2020 let us be mindful to take advantage of every new opportunity the Lord will bring our way to share the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ through the Railroad Evangelist magazine, ***"All Aboard!"***

Joe Spooner
Editor

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.

On the road to Promontory, Utah

In May of 2019, Clay Rolen with his wife Sue and their friend Al Cohnen took Amtrak from Portland, Oregon to witness first hand the 150th celebration of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Amtrak trip took them to Sacramento then onto Salt Lake City where they rented a car for the trip to Promontory. Top photos are the recreation of the “Jupiter”; Central Pacific's Railroad #60 and Union Pacific #119 meet for the Golden Spike ceremony celebrating the First Transcontinental Railroad in 1869. The photos on the bottom are the meeting of Union Pacific “Big Boy” #4014 on left with Union Pacific's “Living Legend” Northern #844. Also two other big boys, Clay (left) and Al (far left) standing in front of the really big “Big Boy” #1014.

Railroad **E**vangelistic **A**ssociation
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