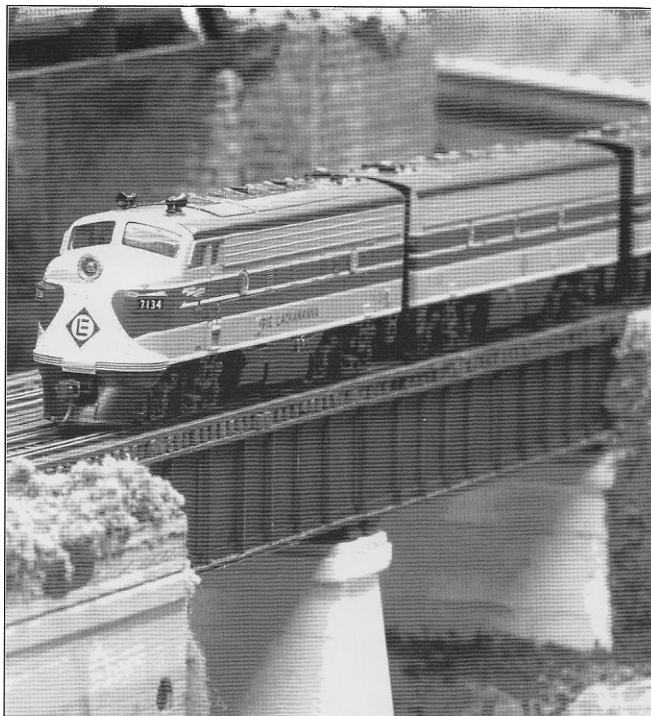


Let us probe into the story within the story. Louis Showers was born in Jamestown, NY, the first child of a Baptist pastor. The gospel was regularly shared with Louis, but it was not until the age of 7 that he finally prayed the sinner's prayer. Though his salvation took place at 7, his call to fulltime ministry began at the age of 4 through the influence of a visiting missionary. It was something he never seriously questioned. Upon graduation from high school, Louis headed to a Bible College. In 1971, his father took his third church in the city of Goshen, IN, and a year later Louis enrolled at Grace College in Winona Lake, IN. He graduated in 1976 with a double major in Biblical Languages and Bible; graduating with a M. Div. degree in 1980 from Grace Theological Seminary. In 1978 he married Wanita and God has blessed them with two children, Jason and Meredith. After serving Churches in Iowa, New Hampshire, and New Jersey, Louis has ministered at Grace Baptist Church of Washington, IN since February 2003. His passion is the study and teaching of the Word of God, as well the work of building strong, healthy churches and believers. In the last few years God has expanded his ministry, allowing him to teach for the Institute of Jewish Studies Internet Bible Institute. God has also given him the ability to write concerning the Scriptures with a large number of articles and letters published in local newspapers. God has expanded on this through an interactive Church web site www.gbcwashingtonin.com which continues to grow monthly with local and international visitors.



Photos courtesy of the Washington Times Herald

The fall of 2010 brought on an urge that Louis needed to find better ways to connect with the community. Sometimes pastors are so involved with the care of their God-given congregation that they can be isolated from those in the community where they minister. He wanted to reach the community on a new and more personal level. Louis had been of the conviction that all that we are and possess has the potential to be used of God to reach others, and that includes our hobbies and interests. March 2011 - he considered opening his model trains to the public during the annual Rail Fest. The Rail Fest was started about 4 years ago by the Daviess County Historical Society and is designed to draw attention to the town's railroad roots. It usually involves rides for the kids and club layouts in community buildings. Louis saw this as a great way to get some positive publicity for the Church and to provide opportunities to personally meet people by handing out gospel literature. As he started on this path, little did Louis realize what God was going to accomplish.

He started his quest by contacting his local paper and suggesting a story on his layout to help advertise the Rail Fest. To his email, Louis attached several color pictures of his layout. Within 15 minutes the editor responded to his suggestion with, "that's a great idea!" The next step was to get in touch with those in charge of the activities. They warmly welcomed him, and were excited that someone locally would be willing to get involved. In the meantime, Louis purchased some gospel tracts, printed some literature, along with special church business cards, and then went to work getting his trains ready. He did not want any derailments with the visitors present. (continued on page 13)

Model Railroading is know as
"The Greatest Hobby in the World"
www.greatesthobby.com