

2011 Small-Town Pastors' Conference

A conference tailored to pastors and wives
in town and country settings

Winds of Change
in Rural America

Featured Speaker



Mark Dever

Pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.;
President, 9Marks Ministries; rural Kentucky upbringing;
frequent conference speaker; author of many books
including *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*

Bring a Lay Leader
with You!



April 4-6, 2011
Morton, Illinois

**Rural Home
Missionary Association**

Nearly 70 Years of Planting and Strengthening Churches in Small Towns



Change Is

RON KLASSEN
RHMA Executive Director

This year's conference is about change. In today's small towns, change is a given. Change is happening. Change is happening at an increasingly rapid pace, even in places where the prevailing notion is that "nothing new ever happens here." *Change is.*

Much change needs to be *initiated* in town and country churches today. Many lack effective leaders. Many are not reaching unbelievers. Many show signs of stagnation and decline.

Perhaps equally as often, rather than *initiating* change we need to *respond appropriately* to change. Rural areas are experiencing changes on a scale never seen before – changes we are not seeking – and we are left with no choice but to respond to them. *Change is.*

In the midst of all the dialogue about change at our conference, we sense the need to underscore things that should not change. This is why Mark Dever will be with us, sharing the biblical constants that should be ever-present in our churches.

There's lots to talk about. Let's do it together!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Klassen".

Bring one of your lay leaders with you!

Because of the nature of this conference, this one time we want to encourage you to bring one of your lay leaders with you. Note the special pricing on the "Registration" page. Because of space limitations, we must limit each church to sending just one lay leader or couple.

Can't come to the Morton Conference?

**Join us in
Waxahachie, Texas
October 10 – 12, 2011**

**For more information about
this conference, go to www.rhma.org.**

RHMA
Box 300, Morton, IL 61550
Call toll-free: 866.263.2350
info@rhma.org
www.rhma.org

Tuesday Seminars

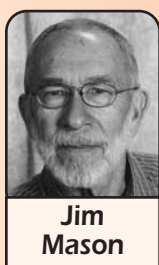
Change Topics – Change Situations

Today our seminars focus on different situations which arise in town and country churches that call for change. Each is a one-hour, stand-alone seminar. Each will be repeated. This means you may choose two of the following:



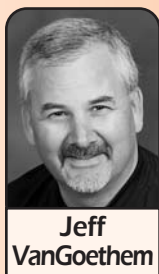
Stresses That Change Puts on People

For 20 years Garth has served as a counselor at the Barnabas Center in Peoria, Illinois, for 10 years as the Center's Director. Much of his counseling is with people who are in the midst of stress. A former potato farmer in rural Maine, Garth understands our ministry contexts.



Strategies for Intentional Change

Jim is Professor Emeritus at Bethel Seminary and a former small-town pastor. His teaching specialties through the years include town and country ministry and leading through change. This seminar will bring these two specialties together.



Pastor Change: When Changing Conditions Indicate It Is Best for the Pastor to Move On

Over a span of nearly 30 years, Jeff served four town and country pastorates. He has done a lot of thinking about pastoral transitions. Just recently he went through another move, this time to a city pastorate – to Scofield Church in Dallas, Texas, which he serves as Senior Pastor.

Tuesday Seminars continued

Change Topics – Change Situations



**Barney
Wells**

Personal Change: How to Stay Current in a Fast-Changing World

During his 34 years of country church ministry, Barney did not allow isolation to turn him into an extinct dinosaur. Today as a seminary professor and professor in RHMA's TACT (Town and Country Training) Program, he continues to be intentional about staying on the cutting edge. Barney is co-author of *Leading Through Change; Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*.



**Jim
Rodgers**

Church Facility Change: Avoiding Hazards, Affordable Solutions

In his role as Architectural Pastor at Church Building Consultants, Inc., Jim blends his background as an architect and small-town pastor to help churches assess and address facility issues, with the goals of enhancing ministry and improving church health.



**Denny
Schlappi**

Constitution Change: Revising a Long-Held Church Constitution

Denny has served 23 years on the pastoral staff at New Castle Bible Church – located in the cornfields near Mackinaw, Illinois. His master's degree research project focused on guiding a church through a major constitutional change – and then he did so not once but twice at NCBC.



**Marty
Giese**

Worship Change: Changing a Worship Style; Adding a Worship Service

Marty has pastored 34 years in two small-town churches. He has led each church through a change in worship style – one which had not experienced a substantial change in worship style during its 120 years of existence. Marty is co-author of *Leading Through Change; Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*.

Tuesday Seminars continued

Change Topics – Change Situations



**Phil
Somers**

Staff Change: Adding a Second Pastor, Ministry Director, or Administrative Assistant

Phil has seen his church in the Illinois cornfields grow substantially during his 25 years as Senior Pastor. Through these years, New Castle Bible Church has gone from having a solo pastor to adding a number of new staff members.



**Mark
Danielson**

Moral Change: Ministering in the Midst of Diminishing “Wholesome Country Living”

Mark is RHMA's Director of Mission Ministries. Prior to this he worked bivocationally as a small-town church planter in Mullen, Nebraska, and Deputy Sheriff of Hooker County. This dual role provides a unique perspective on the moral and spiritual conditions of rural America.



**Mike
Brubaker**

Preaching Change: Connecting to a New Generation of Rural Listeners

Mike has served with RHMA for 20 years as a church planter in rural Connecticut. His recently-completed doctoral thesis focuses on preaching to this new audience of listeners.



**Jonathan
Farrell**

Technology Change: Emerging Possibilities and Ministry Potential

Jonathan is on the pastoral staff of Grace Church – the host church for this conference. He is a former country church assistant pastor. A "techno-geek," Jonathan provides leadership to a number of the technological aspects at Grace Church, and continues to weigh the appropriate ways to engage today's technologically-oriented culture for Christ.

Tuesday Seminars continued

Other Topics



**Barby
Bailey**

Gomer – A Redeeming Romance

10:15 a.m., repeated at 11:30 a.m.

In this seminar we will showcase the story of Gomer and Hosea as we rediscover our own romance with the Savior and bask in His amazing love for us.

Barby serves Dallas Theological Seminary students (particularly student wives) in partnership with her husband who is the President; she is a former pastor's wife and a frequent conference speaker.



**Zach
Schlegel**

IX Biblical Theology and Understanding of the Gospel

- A 9Marks Seminar -

10:15 a.m.

A clear grasp on sound doctrine and what makes the gospel “good news” are central to the life and health of a local church.

IX Biblical Understanding of Conversion

- A 9Marks Seminar -

11:30 a.m.

Understanding God’s work and our response in salvation clarifies an important distinction for both warning and encouraging those who enter the doors of the church.

Zach serves with Mark Dever on the pastoral staff of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. His upbringing was in small-town Nebraska.



**Jason
McConnell**

Rural Ministry 101

Part 1 at 10:15 a.m., Part 2 at 11:30 a.m.

This seminar is an orientation to rural ministry, geared primarily for new pastors and wives who are just getting started. Seasoned pastors and wives are welcome to attend for a refresher course!

Jason is a pastor in a small dairy farming community in Vermont, serving the Franklin United Church and East Franklin Union Church. He is just completing his doctor's dissertation on rural pastoring.

Wednesday Seminars

Change Topics – Changing Demographics

Today our seminars focus on the different people who are living in rural America. Statistical data tell us that less than 2% of the population is farmers, and 94% of the rural labor force is in non-farming vocations, and that lots of newcomers are moving in. This spells c-h-a-n-g-e! As on Tuesday, each is a one-hour, stand-alone seminar. Each will be repeated. This means you may choose two of the following:



Ethnic Change: My Neighbors Don't Speak English!

Since 1993 Chuck has been serving in the upper-Midwest region as an InterCultural Missionary with the Baptist General Conference, helping numerous, mostly rural, English-speaking churches reach Latinos and people of other ethnicities who have moved into their communities.



Economic Change: The Emergence of New Rural Poor and New Rural Rich

Barney has done considerable research on the new poor and rich who are moving into rural America today - very different from the traditional rural poor and rich. These people represent some of the most spiritually needy and unreached in our country.



Population Decline Change: Ministering Where People Are Moving Away

Prior to becoming Director at RHMA, Ron served two rural pastorates in communities that were in the midst of significant decline - one losing one-third of the population in just two years.

Wednesday Seminars continued

Change Topics – Changing Demographics



**Marty
Giese**

Rurbanization Change: These City People Are Different!

For many years Marty has pastored churches where rurbanization is happening big time as people have moved into the community from the Twin Cities of Minnesota. He did a master's degree research project on the subject and has discussed rurbanization in seminars all across the country.



**Jim
Mason**

Case Study: Learning from a Changing Community in Minnesota

Following several years as a small-town pastor, Jim lived in St. Paul, Minnesota, for many years, as he taught at Bethel Seminary. He then, along with a lot of other folks, mostly rurbanites, moved to small-town Minnesota. The country church he attends has done a marvelous job of transitioning to a very different population.



**Jeff
VanGoethem**

Case Study: Learning from a Changing Community in Illinois

Twenty-some years ago, Jeff moved from an isolated rural pastorate to a traditional country/farm church located a few miles from Normal, Illinois. In this seminar you will have opportunity to see how this church with a rich tradition, and yet in decline because of a changing culture around it, successfully navigated through the delicate process of cultural transition.

Other Topics



**Barby
Bailey**

Jochebed – A Refining Rest

10:15 a.m., repeated at 11:30 a.m.

In this seminar we will showcase the mother of Miriam, Aaron, and Moses as we focus on how to enjoy resting in Him in the midst of busy lives of service.

Wednesday Seminars continued

Other Topics



**Zach
Schlegel**

IX Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

- A 9Marks Seminar -

10:15 a.m.

Knowing what the Bible says evangelism is as well as what it is not helps to cultivate joy and clarity in telling people the good news of Jesus.

IX Biblical Discipleship and Growth

- A 9Marks Seminar -

11:30 a.m.

As the Body of Christ, church members – not programs – are responsible for each other's spiritual growth as they seek to have a compelling witness for Christ.



**Jason
McConnell**

Rural Ministry 101

Part 3 at 10:15 a.m., Part 4 at 11:30 a.m.

This seminar is a continuation of Tuesday's – an orientation to rural ministry, geared primarily for new pastors and wives who are just getting started. Seasoned pastors and wives are welcome to attend for a refresher course!

Ladies' Tea



**Laura
Bagley**

Laura is a busy mother (four young daughters, with a fifth on the way!) and RHMA pastor's wife, serving with her husband, Bill, in Crawford, Nebraska (pop. 1035). She has much to share about how God has worked in her family and church!

Continuing Education Credit

You can receive 1.3 CEU credits by attending all sessions of the Small-Town Pastors' Conference. Credits will be issued through Lancaster Bible College and Graduate School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A fee of \$6.50 is payable at the conference upon completion of a form which will be available in the conference packets. LBC will mail you a CEU certificate following the conference.



Lancaster Bible College
and Graduate School

Schedule

Monday, April 4

- 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Registration at RHMA's headquarters building, 310 East Courtland Street, Morton
Check into hotels
- 5:30 p.m. Supper at Grace Evangelical Church
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session with Mark Dever
Preaching
- 8:30 p.m. Fellowship time with Morton's finest:
Caramel pecan pumpkin sundaes!

Tuesday, April 5

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting with Jeff VanGoethem
- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session with Ron Klassen
Let There Be Change . . . and Let It Begin with Me
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Seminars on Change Situations
- 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:30 a.m. Seminars
(all 10:15 a.m. seminars on Change Situations repeated)
- 12:30 p.m. Box Lunches
Free time – Choice of activities
(see options on Special Events page)
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session with Mark Dever
Membership & Discipline

Wednesday, April 6

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting with Jeff VanGoethem
- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session with Barney Wells
Leading Through Change Isn't for Wimps
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Seminars on Changing Demographics
- 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:30 a.m. Seminars
(all 10:15 a.m. seminars on Changing Demographics repeated)
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch – Two options
(1) Fellowship with small-town pastors and wives
(2) Get-to-Know-RHMA presentation
- 1:45 p.m. Plenary Session with Marty Giese
Maintaining Your Balance in the Midst of Change
- 2:45 p.m. Change Roundtable – Men's Dessert Forum with the speakers
Ladies' Tea with Laura Bagley
- 3:30 p.m. Free time
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Closing Plenary Session with Mark Dever
Leadership

Information

REGISTRATION COSTS

POSTMARKED BY MARCH 15:

Pastor ONLY:	\$100
Pastor & Wife:	\$130
Lay Leader (with pastor's registration):	\$75
Lay Leader & Wife:	\$105
Full-time Student:	\$40

After March 15: ADD \$20 to the total registration cost.

Registration includes lunches, suppers, and conference materials.

(A nominal fee will be charged for some of the special events. See Special Events pages.)

Registration costs are non-refundable after March 15. Space is limited to 400. First-come, first-served basis.

LODGING

Special rates have been secured at the following hotels:

Holiday Inn Express and Suites	\$89.00
140 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550	(special rates
Phone: 309.263.4400	expire 3/07)
Best Western Ashland House	\$75.00
201 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550	(special rates
Phone: 309.263.5116	expire 3/23)
Baymont Inn and Suites	\$64.99
210 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550	(special rates
Phone: 309.266.8888	expire 3/10)
Quality Inn	\$62.00
115 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550	(special rates
Phone: 309.266.8310	expire 3/23)
Travelodge	\$62.00
101 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550	(special rates
Phone: 309.266.1600	expire 3/23)

All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast.

The Holiday Inn, Best Western, and Baymont Inn have indoor pools.

To make your reservations, please call the hotel of your choice.

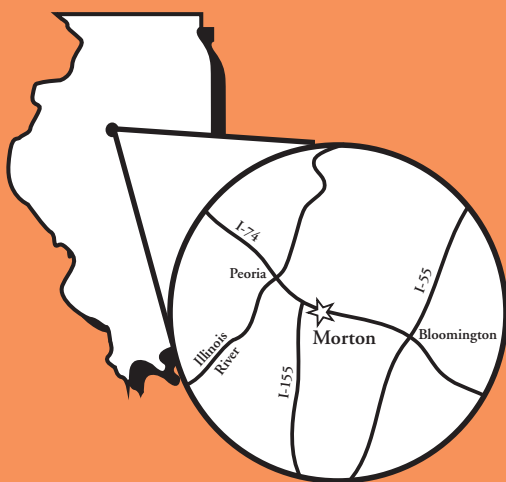
Mention RHMA to receive the reduced rate.

We encourage you to make your reservation early as space is limited at these rates.

CHILDREN

While families are important to us, this conference is for pastors and wives and lay leaders. As a courtesy to other participants we ask that no children attend with you. Thank you.

Location



ALL SESSIONS HELD AT
Grace Evangelical Church
1325 E. Jefferson
Morton, IL 61550
309.266.9281



RHMA IS SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT MANY SMALL-TOWN PASTORS CANNOT AFFORD EXPENSIVE PASTORS' CONFERENCES. THE ACTUAL COST OF THIS CONFERENCE IS CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THE REGISTRATION FEE, BUT RHMA IS COMMITTED TO RAISING THE DIFFERENCE. DURING THE CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE PROVIDED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD EXPENSES, IF YOU WISH TO DO SO.

Registration

PLEASE PRINT OR GO ONLINE TO REGISTER
(Lay leaders – make a copy and fill out separately)

Name _____

Wife's name (if attending) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church/Ministry _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Email _____

Registration cost if postmarked by March 15: Check where appropriate

- Pastor ONLY \$100 Pastor & Wife \$130 Full-time Student \$40
 Lay Leader (with pastor's registration) \$75 Lay Leader & Wife \$105

Registration cost _____

After March 15: add \$20 to total registration cost _____

Lincoln Museum tour cost _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Total \$ _____

THREE WAYS TO PAY

1. Make check payable to: RHMA

Mail form and check to: RHMA, Box 300, Morton, IL 61550

2. Or pay with: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

3. Or register online with a credit card

Pre-Registration for In-depth Seminars

To help us plan for seminar materials and space, please indicate your choices below. This registration does not commit you to your selection. You may change it upon arrival.

Check TWO – per day – per person registered

Tuesday Seminars

<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cushman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somers
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mason	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danielson
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VanGoethem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brubaker
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farrell
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rodgers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bailey
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Schlappi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Schlegel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Giese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McConnell

Wednesday Seminars

<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selander	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VanGoethem
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bailey
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Klassen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Schlegel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Giese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McConnell
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mason			

Special Events

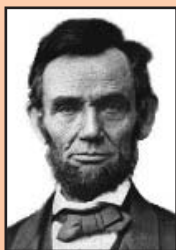
Tuesday afternoon

Following are activity possibilities for Tuesday afternoon. Please check the activity of your choosing. (The Lincoln Museum tour must be prepaid. Send the appropriate fee with your registration.)

Some activities have limited space and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

Step through the doors of the official Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and you'll feel as if you've stepped into the life of our 16th president, widely acclaimed as our nation's greatest. The museum features state of the art exhibits, interactive displays, and multimedia programs. It also contains the world's largest collection of documentary material related to the life of Lincoln. Join us for an experience you will never forget and learn more about Abraham Lincoln and his legacy to the United States and the world.



This tour is limited to 30 people.

The cost for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is **\$10.00/person** and is **IN ADDITION** to your conference registration fee. Advanced tickets for the tour are required. Therefore no refund will be given and we must receive your tour reservation by March 4.

(Special Events continued next page)

To help us with planning, please indicate your choices below.

Tuesday, April 5 Activities *(please check one per person)*

Pastor Wife

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
(\$10.00/person)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ronald Reagan Museum at Eureka College (no cost) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Funk Prairie Home and Gem & Mineral Museum
(\$5.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shoppes at Grand Prairie Bus Trip (\$2.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Golf Outing (fee to be determined) |

Wednesday, April 6

Pastor Wife

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lunch Option 1 – Fellowship with small-town pastors and wives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lunch Option 2 – Get-to-Know-RHMA presentation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | Men's Dessert Forum with the speakers |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ladies' Tea with Laura Bagley |

*** Note:** *If you sign up for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, the money is not refundable if you cancel.*

Special Events continued

Ronald Reagan Museum at Eureka College ***Come join the centennial celebration of his birth!***



President Reagan's alma mater houses a collection of over 2,000 items from his student days, movie career, and political life. It's the largest collection of Reagan memorabilia outside of the Reagan Library in California.

This is a free event. We will arrange carpools for the 20-minute ride to the museum.

Funk Prairie Home and Gem & Mineral Museum

Lafayette Funk was a founder of the Chicago Union Stockyards and director of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. His family had one of the largest farms in America and created the first commercial hybrid corn. His grandson traveled extensively for the Funk Brothers Seed Co. and collected gems and minerals from around the world. The farm was electrified in 1910 (first in the world) and the 13-room home, built in 1864, has been extensively restored to its original condition. The museum houses more than 4,000 specimens, from gemstones of every type to petrified dinosaur feces to an intact saber-toothed tiger skull!



This tour is limited to 30 people. The cost of the bus trip is \$5 per person.

Shoppes at Grand Prairie

Take a bus ride to the Shoppes at Grand Prairie for an afternoon of shopping. Included in the 80+ shops are: Aeropostale, Ann Taylor Loft, Banana Republic, Bergners, Borders Books & Music, Chicos, Claire's Accessories, Clarks, Coldwater Creek, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dress Barn, Eddie Bauer, Jos. A Bank Clothiers, New York & Company, and Old Navy.

The cost of the bus trip to the Shoppes at Grand Prairie is \$2.00 per person. You may also choose to carpool with someone and not be restricted to the bus schedule.

Golf Outing

Weather and interest permitting, we will schedule a golf outing for Tuesday afternoon. Please mark "Golf Outing" if you are interested in participating.

The cost will be determined. We will contact you before the conference with further information.

Wednesday noon

Get-to-Know-RHMA presentation

Perhaps you are wondering, "What is RHMA and what does RHMA do?" In this luncheon meeting, information will be shared about the expanding and broad-reaching ministries of RHMA.



Box 300
Morton, IL 61550

Join us at our Small-Town Pastors' Conference!

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