2017 Small-Town Pastors’ Conference
A conference tailored to pastors and wives in town and country settings

Featuring

Bryan Chapell
Senior Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, Illinois; four small-town pastorates; author, including Christ-Centered Preaching

Jason McConnell
Pastor, Franklin United Church and East Franklin Union Church – both located in dairying/farming communities in Vermont; professor, RHMA TACT Program

Phil Tuttle
President, Walk Thru the Bible; former small-town pastor; author, including Crucible: The Choices that Change Your Life Forever; member, RHMA Board of Reference

Erwin Lutzer
Pastor Emeritus, Moody Church; raised in rural Saskatchewan, Canada; conference speaker; featured speaker on three radio programs, including Running to Win; author, including He Will Be the Preacher: The Story of God’s Providence in My Life and Rescuing the Gospel: The Story and Significance of the Reformation

April 24-26
Morton, Illinois
Being small in size or in an obscure location may cause one to ask, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” The answer is a resounding yes! In fact, celebrating all that has come out of “Nazareth” is long overdue! The small-town church has a long history of faithfulness and fruitfulness. At our conference, you will be invigorated by examples from Bible times through today. Your imagination will be stirred with the possibilities of what God might do in our lifetimes through churches like the one you serve.

And, there is a special reason for celebration at this conference! Keep reading in this brochure, and you will find that we will be celebrating RHMA’s 75th birthday in a big way!

At this conference, you will find things tailored to smaller contexts. Our speakers and seminar leaders all have strong hearts for town and country places, with many cumulative years of experience in your kind of ministry setting. And, it’ll all happen in a down-home, affirming, warm, and friendly atmosphere.

WARNING: Celebration is good for your health. Expect to leave our conference feeling better than when you came!

For more information about RHMA, go to www.rhma.org.

RHMA
Box 300, Morton, IL 61550
Call toll-free: 866-263-2350
info@rhma.org
Seminar Leaders

**Bill Allison**
Founder and Executive Director of Cadre Ministries; former small-town youth pastor; conference speaker; author, including *Disciplemaker’s Guide to Grow, Minister & Lead*

**Lee Eclov**
Senior Pastor, Village Church, Lincolnshire, Illinois; grew up in a rural South Dakota church; contributor, Leadership Journal and PreachingToday.com; author, *Pastoral Graces: Reflections on the Care of Souls and Pastor’s Service Manual*

**Adam Kipp**
Pastor, Grace Bible Church, a small-town church in Illinois; recently completed a Doctor of Ministry dissertation that focuses on counseling needs in rural communities; member, RHMA Board of Directors

**Mark Mincy**
Teaching Pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church, a town and country church in Illinois; former small-town pastor in Upstate New York

**Ron Klassen**
Executive Director, RHMA; former small-town pastor; conference speaker; author, including *No Little Places: The Untapped Potential of the Small-Town Church and Leading Through Change: Shepherd ing the Town and Country Church in a New Era*

**Ellen Tuttle**
Former small-town pastor’s wife in two Illinois churches; serves and speaks with her husband, Phil, President of Walk Thru the Bible

**Barney Wells**
Graduate and Seminary Dean, Associate Professor of Bible and Ministry, Lincoln Christian University; consultant and professor, RHMA TACT Program; longtime country church pastor; author, including *Shepherd ing the Town and Country Church in a New Era*
Tuesday Morning Seminars
(90 minutes)

Ray Badgero
*The Ministry Dangers of Trading Your Mudville for Another’s Barrington*
A look at the dangers of borrowing strategies from another’s “success.” We’ll explore the trendy entrapments and the nature of the church to be manifested in the small town.

Sandra Glahn
(Women)
*Small Town, Big Impact: Women from Paddan Aram, Paran, Lippidoth, the Mishneh District, and Jericho*
Some of the world’s most influential people have hailed from small towns. Most of us have never heard of Paddan Aram and Lippidoth, but God has brought some great women from these little places. We’ll consider the lives of five such Old Testament women whom God has used greatly, with a focus on what we can glean from their experiences.

Adam Kipp
*Mayhem in Mayberry*
Contrary to what some outsiders think, small towns are not places for quaint, simple, and quiet ministries. People are struggling with things like worry, depression, anger, and more. We’ll look at research gleaned from small-town pastors like you to see what’s really happening, and discuss how to address some of the issues.

Ron Klassen
*Raising Godly Children in a Pagan Environment*
Many small-town pastors find themselves in places where there is little positive Christian influence for children. We’ll look at some practical approaches for raising children in these kinds of environments.

Jason McConnell
*A Cast from the Past: Town and Country Ministry in Historical Perspective*
This seminar will explore and celebrate the
biographies of eight surprising figures from church history who have had a profound impact on town and country churches. These historical biographies are designed to inspire and encourage modern rural pastors.

**Phil Tuttle**  
*Getting Your People into the Word Like Never Before*  
What percentage of your church is in the Word on a daily basis? If you’re like most pastors, you may cringe at your answer. Come learn about the newest church-wide campaign from Walk Thru the Bible designed to get individuals, small groups, and your entire congregation literally on the same page.

**Barney Wells**  
*Rural Ministry 101*  
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!

**Tuesday Afternoon Seminars**  
(90 minutes)

**Bill Allison**  
*Disciplemaking with Youth in a Small-Town Church*  
We talk a lot these days about following Jesus, but what does that really look like in real life? We’ll explore what it means to help teens embrace a Jesus-like disciplemaking way of life in a small-town context. Bring your Bible and sense of humor.

**Lee Eclov**  
*Spiritual Architecture – How Pastors Build with Grace*  
Building a church spiritually is slow work with broken people. How do we paint with the colors God gives us? How do we build on the benefits of God’s grace? How do we become a church that says yes? This seminar won’t help your church get bigger, but it will help your church grow in grace.
**Mark Mincy**

*Worship: When God Is Big and We Are Small*

An exploration of the theology, philosophy, and application of worship – with particular application to congregational worship in the gathered assembly.

**Ellen Tuttle**

(Women)

*Relationships That Carry You Through the Storms*

Why do some people weather their storms better than others? Whether you are in a storm or someone you love is, this seminar will help cultivate the key relationships that support you during the tough times of life.

**Wednesday Seminars** (repeated in the afternoon)

(60 minutes)

**Ray Badgero**

*The Powerful Secret about Secrets in Small-Town Interaction*

A look at the dynamics of small-town secrets that might govern the interaction and motivation of its members. Sometimes secrets are the missing pieces that stump the outsider in answering the “why” question.

**Sandra Glahn**

(Women)

*Small Town, Big Impact: Women from Sychar, Magdala, and Nazareth*

Some great people have come from small places. In this continuing look at what biblical women from tiny towns can teach us, we’ll consider three New Testament saints whose influence still reaches us more than 2,000 years later.
Lee Eclov  
*The Small Work of Shepherding*
Most pastoral care is small work – one-on-one, unseen, seemingly inefficient, and kind of feel-your-own-way-along ministry. Pastors of smaller churches have a shepherding advantage, but it’s easy to lose perspective. This seminar aims to help you see your work in fresh, biblical light.

Jason McConnell  
*I Love to Tell the Story: First-Person Narrative Preaching in the Town and Country Context*
This seminar will introduce the art of first-person narrative preaching and explain why this homiletic form fits oral cultures and rural communities. It will also demonstrate a step-by-step process for developing and delivering first-person narrative sermons for “dramatic” impact.

Phil Tuttle  
*Overcoming Depression – The Silent Killer of God’s Servants*
We seldom talk about it, but depression is very common among pastors and their wives. This seminar will be a “condemnation-free zone” as we shine the light of God’s Word into this dark corner of our minds. We’ll discover root causes and practical cures from the life of Elijah.

Barney Wells  
*Reaching the Unchurched in Small-Town America*
How do you reach the unchurched in a place where everyone knows everyone else, and most think they belong to a church? This seminar looks at connecting to the unchurched through their felt needs to address their deepest need.
Celebration Banquet
RHMA’s 75th birthday!
Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.
Embassy Suites Conference Center
East Peoria, Illinois
(10 minutes from Morton)

Featured Speaker
Erwin Lutzer

“Special Appearance”
C.J. Rediger
RHMA’s Founder

Please confirm your attendance when you register. There is no extra cost, and no offering will be taken at the banquet. Tickets will be included in the registration packet you receive when you check in at conference time.

Casual conference dress is just fine.
(No need to pack your tie and sport coat!)
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.

Schedule

Monday, April 24

3:00-5:00 p.m.  Registration at RHMA
310 E. Courtland, Morton
(6:30 p.m. Late registration at Grace Church)

5:30 p.m.  Supper at Grace Church
1325 E. Jefferson, Morton

6:00-6:45 p.m.  Bookstore open

7:00 p.m.  Plenary Session
Speaker: Phil Tuttle

8:30 p.m.  Dessert and Fellowship
*Hosted by the RHMA Board of Directors*

Tuesday, April 25

8:00 a.m.  Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen

8:45 a.m.  Plenary Session
Speaker: Jason McConnell
*The Great Demotion*

10:00 a.m.  Break

10:00-10:45 a.m.  Bookstore open

10:45 a.m.  Seminars (90 minutes)

12:30 p.m.  Lunch / Free-time Options

12:30-1:30 p.m.  Bookstore open

1:30-3:00 p.m.  Seminars (90 minutes)

6:00 p.m.  Doors open at Embassy Suites, East Peoria

6:30 p.m.  75th Anniversary Banquet
Speaker: Erwin Lutzer
Reg Grant as C.J. Rediger

(Continued on next page)
Wednesday, April 26

8:00 a.m.  Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen
8:45 a.m.  Plenary Session
  Speaker: Erwin Lutzer
  *No Little People, No Little Places*
  (Exodus 3:1-6)
10:00 a.m.  Break
10:00-10:30 a.m.  Bookstore open
10:30 a.m.  Seminars
  (60 minutes, repeated in the afternoon)
11:30 a.m.  Lunch / Options
  Fellowship Hall: *Fellowship with other pastors and wives or Get-to-Know-RHMA presentation*
12:30 p.m.  Abraham Lincoln Museum and Lincoln’s New Salem Historic Site
12:45-1:45 p.m.  Seminars
  (60 minutes, repeat of morning seminars)
2:00 p.m.  Ladies’ Tea with Sandra Glahn
  Men’s Dessert Forum
5:30 p.m.  Supper
6:00-6:45 p.m.  Bookstore open
  (last opportunity to buy books)
7:00 p.m.  Closing Plenary Session
  Speaker: Bryan Chapell
  *Life After Lions* (Daniel 6)
While families are important to us, this conference is for pastors and wives. As a courtesy to our other participants we ask that no children attend with you. Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGISTRATION COSTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POSTMARKED BY APRIL 10:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor ONLY: $110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor &amp; Wife: $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Student: $50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Student &amp; Wife: $90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**After April 10: ADD $20 per person to the total registration cost.**

Registration includes lunches, suppers, and conference materials.

Registration costs are non-refundable after April 10.

*Space is limited. First-come, first-served basis.*

**LODGING**

The following rates have been secured at these hotels:

- **Holiday Inn Express and Suites**  
  Double/Single - $112.00  
  140 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550  
  Phone: 309-263-4400 (rate expires 3/25)

- **Park Inn by Radisson** (formerly Best Western Ashland House)  
  201 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 $87.99  
  Phone: 309-263-5116 (rate expires 3/22)

- **Baymont Inn and Suites**  
  210 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 $84.99 - $104.99  
  Phone: 309-266-8888 (rates expire 3/24)

- **Quality Inn**  
  Double/King - $79.99 - $84.99  
  115 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550  
  Phone: 309-266-8310 (rates expire 3/1)

- **Days Inn** (formerly Travelodge)  
  Double/King - $69.99  
  101 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550  
  Phone: 309-266-1600 (rate expires 3/1)

All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast. To make your reservation, please call the hotel of your choice. Mention RHMA to receive these rates.

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. As a courtesy to our other participants we ask that no children attend with you. Thank you.
ALL SESSIONS HELD AT
Grace Church
1325 E. Jefferson
Morton, IL 61550

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.

RHMA appreciates the financial support of the Village of Morton, which helps with the cost of producing and mailing this brochure and other conference marketing endeavors.
Registration

You may register online (www.rhma.org) or fill out this form and mail to RHMA, Box 300, Morton, IL 61550.

Name __________________________________
Wife’s name (if attending) __________________________
Address ________________________________________
City ___________________ State _______ Zip ________
Church/Ministry ________________________________
Phone: Home/Cell __________ Work __________
Email ______________________________

Registration cost if postmarked by April 10: Check where appropriate
Pastor ONLY □ $110  Pastor & Wife □ $150
Full-time Student □ $50  Full-time Student & Wife □ $90

Registration cost ________

After April 10: Add $20 per person to the total cost ________

CAT Visitors Center fee __________ x $5.00 = __________
New Salem fee __________ x $5.00 = __________
Lincoln Museum fee __________ x $10.00 = __________

Total $________

To help us plan for seminar materials and space, please indicate your choices below.

Tuesday Morning Seminars

Choose ONE per person

- The Ministry Dangers of Trading Your Mudville for Another’s Barrington
- Small Town, Big Impact: Women from Paddan Aram, Paran, Lippidoth, the Mishneh District, and Jericho
- Mayhem in Mayberry
- Raising Godly Children in a Pagan Environment
- A Cast from the Past: Town and Country Ministry in Historical Perspective
- Getting Your People into the Word Like Never Before
- Rural Ministry 101

Tuesday Afternoon Seminars

Note: The Tuesday afternoon activities listed on the next page coincide with these afternoon seminars.

Choose ONE per person

- Disciplemaking with Youth in a Small-Town Church
- Spiritual Architecture – How Pastors Build with Grace
- Worship: When God Is Big and We Are Small
- Relationships That Carry You Through the Storms

Tuesday Evening Banquet – number of tickets ________ (included in registration)

Wednesday Seminars

Choose TWO per person (each seminar is repeated)

- The Powerful Secret about Secrets in Small-Town Interaction
- Small Town, Big Impact: Women from Sychar, Magdala, and Nazareth
- The Small Work of Shepherding
- I Love to Tell the Story: First-Person Narrative Preaching in the Town and Country Context
- Overcoming Depression – The Silent Killer of God’s Servants
- Reaching the Unchurched in Small-Town America
- Ladies’ Tea  Men’s Dessert Forum

(continued on the next page)
Activities

Tuesday and Wednesday

In addition to seminars, the following activities are options for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Please check the activity of your choice.

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

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

Caterpillar Visitors Center

(No limit)
The Caterpillar Visitors Center in Peoria is a fascinating look at the company—from the humble beginnings of the first tractor to the company’s present-day leadership in building infrastructure and powering the planet. You’ll enjoy experiencing Caterpillar on a self-guided journey of interactive displays and exhibits. Climb into the seat of a massive two-story Cat® 797 truck and take a virtual ride into a customer’s mine site down a haul road. Unleash your inner engineer and design your very own Cat machine. Hop onto a simulator and see first-hand what it’s like to operate equipment the way real-life operators do. Experience the sheer massive volume of the rugged Cat machines and learn of the customer-driven design and innovation that has made Caterpillar a world-leading manufacturer. The cost is $5.00 per person.

Trap Shooting and Fishing

(No limit)
Weather permitting, we will fish and shoot clay pigeons at an RHMA friend’s hobby farm. Guns and fishing gear will be provided at no cost.

Three Ways to Pay

1. Make check payable to RHMA and mail with this form.
2. Or pay with: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard
   Card # ____________________________ Exp. Date ____________
   Signature ________________________
3. Or register online (www.rhma.org) and pay there with a credit card or from your bank account.

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 15 people.

The cost for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is $10.00 per person. Advanced tickets for the tour are required. Therefore no refund will be given.

Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site
(Limited to 15 people)

New Salem is a reconstruction of where Abraham Lincoln lived from 1831 to 1837. While in his twenties, the future U.S. President made his living in this frontier village as a boatman, soldier in the Black Hawk War, general store owner, postmaster, surveyor, and rail splitter, and was first elected to the Illinois General Assembly. The cost is $5.00 per person.

Ronald Reagan Museum at Eureka College
(Twenty minutes from Morton. Driving maps will be available.)

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.

Golf Outing
(Limited to 15 people. Driving maps will be available.)

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.

Ladies Shopping
(Limited to 15 people)

Take a van ride to Bloomington for an afternoon of indoor mall shopping. Included among the stores are: American Eagle Outfitters, Back Store, Bath & Body Works, Bergner’s, Buckle, Christopher & Banks, Claire’s, Cuddly Friends, C.J. Banks, deb shop, Earthbound Trading Company, Finish Line, Foot Locker, Gap, JCPenney, Hallmark, Hickory Farms, Kohl’s, Lids, Limited, Macy’s, maurices, MC Sports, Old Navy, Payless ShoeSource, Sears, White Barn Candle Co., Wild Country.

Bass Pro Shops – East Peoria
(Ten minutes from Morton. Driving maps will be available.)

Bass Pro Shops is an outdoor retail leader in hunting, camping, nature gifts, outdoor cooking, and much more. They have become one of America’s premier outdoor retailers with destination outdoor retail stores across America and Canada, serving over 75 million sportsmen a year. Each store is unique and offers a truly unforgettable shopping experience – as close to the Great Outdoors as you can get indoors!
Join us at RHMA’s Small-Town Pastors’ Conference!