

Small-Town Pastors' Conference

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



Jesus

The Quintessential Rural Minister

[(kwin-tuh-sen'shul), adj. Perfect example]

Featuring...



Joe Stowell

Teaching Pastor, Harvest Bible Chapel, Chicago, Ill.; small-town pastor's kid; author



Marty Giese

Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Park Rapids, Minn.; frequent small-town seminar leader; author



April 28-30, 2008
MORTON, ILLINOIS

**Rural Home
Missionary Association**

*Over 65 Years of Planting & Strengthening
Churches in Small Towns*



Quintessential?

RON KLASSEN

RHMA Executive Director

I can't recall when we have had more discussion at RHMA headquarters about a conference theme.

We want this conference to focus on Christ—particularly His role on earth as a rural minister. Doing so, we want to elevate Christ, which prompted us to search for a word that would not normally be used of others. We ruled out “example” and “standard” and “benchmark”—because these would be good words to describe some of you who are reading this and we want to set apart Christ from the rest of us. We ruled out “supreme” and “ultimate” because we thought surely Christ deserves a better description than we give to pizza.

We realize our conference theme puts us at risk for sounding pompous or highfalutin. We decided this is a risk worth taking. Come to our conference and you'll see that it isn't so.

We promise to strive to be a “benchmark” conference when it comes to affirming and assisting rural pastors and wives. I hope you sense this as you work your way through this brochure. And, I hope to see you soon!

Can't come to the Morton Conference?

Join us in

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

May 19 – 21, 2008

**Held in partnership with and on the campus
of Lancaster Bible College and Graduate School.**

**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

Meet the Conference Speakers & Seminar Leaders



Mel Boyle

Wife of former small-town church planter; women's conference speaker



Mike Boyle

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies, Moody Bible Institute; former small-town church planter; RHMA Consultant



Joan Denlinger

Small-town church planter/pastor's wife; author



Bob & Donna Herrmann

Long-time pastoral couple in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York



Marty Giese

Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Park Rapids, Minn.; frequent small-town seminar leader; author



Ron Klassen

Executive Director, RHMA; former small-town pastor; author



John Regier

Director/Founder, Caring for the Heart Ministries; former small-town pastor; counselor; author; conference speaker



Joe Stowell

Teaching Pastor, Harvest Bible Chapel, Chicago, Ill.; small-town pastor's kid; author

Speakers continued...



Jeff VanGoethem

Pastor, East White Oak Bible Church, Carlock, Ill.; four town and country pastorates; author



Mel Walker

Director of Student Ministries, Regular Baptist Press; former youth pastor; author; grew up in a small town



Barney Wells

Town and Country Training Program Consultant, RHMA; professor, Lincoln Christian Seminary; former country church pastor for 34 years; author

Seminars

In-depth Seminars — Tuesday ***Each seminar is a three-part series.***

How to Plant a Healthy Small-Town Church

Mike Boyle

This seminar will give some tools for planting a small-town church in which God is at work, the joy of the Spirit is present, and there is a love for one another. We'll focus on a Biblical mission and values, the phases of planting, church culture, and the importance of being a healthy church planter.

Keeping Passion Alive in Ministry

ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN

Joan Denlinger

Is ministry depleting your emotional energy? This seminar takes a look at the unique role of a small-town pastor's wife. We will explore resources we possess that help us accomplish a variety of tasks.

Resource Management in Town and Country Ministry

Marty Giese

Careful oversight of time, talent, and money is doubly important in places where these are not as plentiful. This seminar will particularly address how the rural culture impacts these important areas of stewardship.

Maximizing the Strengths of the Town/Country Church

Ron Klassen

Picture a small-town church that is not trying to imitate larger, city churches, but studies itself and its community and then prayerfully designs ministries uniquely suited for its place and time. This seminar will help this picture become a reality as we explore the distinctive characteristics—especially strengths—of the small-town church.

Reasons Why Husbands and Wives in Your Congregation Cannot Love Each Other

John Regier

Unresolved spiritual issues will keep a person from opening their heart to love in a relationship. Two issues, bitterness and moral failure, will be used as examples of how they destroy intimacy in marriage. Steps will be given on how to develop emotional intimacy in marriage.

Reversing Decline in a Long-Established Small-Town Church

Jeff VanGoethem

Churches all across rural and small-town America are declining and even closing. Can anything be done about this? Is it still possible to build and rebuild small-town churches? We will not sugar-coat this tough question but outline the perseverance and strategies needed to successfully reverse decline.

From Youth Group to Church – Helping Students Transition

Mel Walker

The statistics are alarming—almost 70% of high school graduates quit going to church once they are in college. What can we do about it? This session covers some proactive solutions to this crisis facing the church.

The Nuts and Bolts of Rural Ministry

Barney Wells

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!

In-depth Seminars — Wednesday ***Each seminar is a two-part series.***

Juggling 101

ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN

Mel Boyle

Help and hope for the young pastor's wife who daily faces a mountain of laundry, chases toddlers, races to finish the next ministry responsibility—and at supper-time finds herself with her pastor (also her husband) needing encouragement.

From Reactive to Intentional Ministry

Mike Boyle

A phone call, hospital visit, funeral, or unexpected crisis makes ministry more reactive than intentional. Amidst these daily demands of ministry, our goals, mission, vision, and values get lost. Some regular practices and ministry tools can move us away from the tyranny of reactive ministry.

Understanding and Managing Rural/Urban Differences

Marty Giese

Rural is different from urban—not just with geography or demographics but with mindset. Part 1 of this seminar provides a detailed look at the role of cultural orientation and its impact on ministry effectiveness. Part 2 examines how to lead in the midst of cultural collision between rural and urban mindsets in a way that enhances ministry effectiveness.

Helping Your People Resolve Emotional Pain

John Regier

Emotional issues that have locked the heart will affect one's response in marriage. Twelve emotional issues that destroy marriage will be defined and spiritual steps, using Scriptural principles, will be given to resolve them.

Illustrating the Sermon

ESPECIALLY FOR MEN

Joe Stowell

Effective sermons connect to people's lives where they are and make the point of the text clear. To guarantee clarity and connectivity, illustrations may just be the most powerful tools in our preaching buckets!

How Small Can Be Huge: The Great Potential of Small Youth Groups

Mel Walker

A recent report indicated that the average church in this country is around 80 people with 4 teenagers. We'll discuss the upsides of having a small group and how small-town church youth ministries can make an incredible impact for eternity.

What others are saying . . .



"RHMA's conference is not just the best small-town pastors' conference I know of, it is one of the best pastors' conferences I have attended. I always leave feeling affirmed in my ministry and grateful for my calling."

John Koessler

Chair and Professor of Pastoral Studies, Moody Bible Institute; former small-town pastor; co-author No Little Places



"My experience is that there is nothing like RHMA's Small-Town Pastors' Conference. It's rare indeed to have such focus, purpose, fellowship, and encouragement."

Kent Hughes

Senior Pastor Emeritus, College Church, Wheaton, Ill.; Executive Director, Bible Heritage Foundation, Spokane, Washington; author and conference speaker; Member, RHMA's Board of Reference



"God has put me in touch with some great people in my role as President of Dallas Seminary—including academic deans and presidents of seminaries in North America and internationally. I've said this often, including to the academic deans and presidents: Those who are serving in small towns are my heroes. They really are—more than anyone I have met anywhere, because of their faithful long-term commitment to be God's men and women in the small places God has put them."

Dr. Mark Bailey

President, Dallas Theological Seminary; Member, RHMA's Board of Reference

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 \$5.00 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 28

- 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 Joe Stowell
The Preeminence of Christ in Choices
- 8:45 p.m. "Make-Your-Own-Sundae" Fellowship
Hosted by the RHMA Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 29

- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session with Marty Giese
Leadership in Context (Part I)
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. In-depth Seminars, Sessions 1 & 2
- 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. In-depth Seminars, Session 3
- 2:45 p.m. Men's & Women's Dessert Forums with the speakers
- 3:45 p.m. Free time
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session with Joe Stowell
The Preeminence of Christ in Expectations

Wednesday, April 30

- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session with Marty Giese
Leadership in Context (Part II)
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. In-depth Seminars, Sessions 1 & 2
- 12:15 p.m. Box lunches
Free time – Choice of activities
(see options on fold-out page)
- 1:15 p.m. Afternoon Seminar option with Barney Wells
Leading Through Change
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Closing Plenary Session with Joe Stowell
The Preeminence of Christ in Preeminence

Information

REGISTRATION COSTS

POSTMARKED BY APRIL 9, 2008:

Pastor ONLY:	\$95
Pastor & Wife:	\$120
Full-time Student:	\$35

After April 9: ADD \$20 to the total registration cost.

Registration includes breaks, lunches, suppers, and conference materials.

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

Registration costs are non-refundable after April 9. Space is limited to 400. First-come, first-served basis.

LODGING

Special rates have been secured at the following hotels:

Ashland House & Conference Center (Best Western)

201 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309.263.5116

Rate: \$69/night + tax (1-4 people)

Comfort Inn

210 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309.266.8888

Rate: \$59.99/night + tax (1-4 people)

Quality Inn

115 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309.266.8310

Rate: \$59/night + tax (1-4 people)

Travelodge

101 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309.266.1600

Rate: \$59/night + tax (1-4 people)

All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast.

The Ashland House and Comfort Inn have indoor pools.

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

Mention RHMA to receive the reduced rate.

HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE

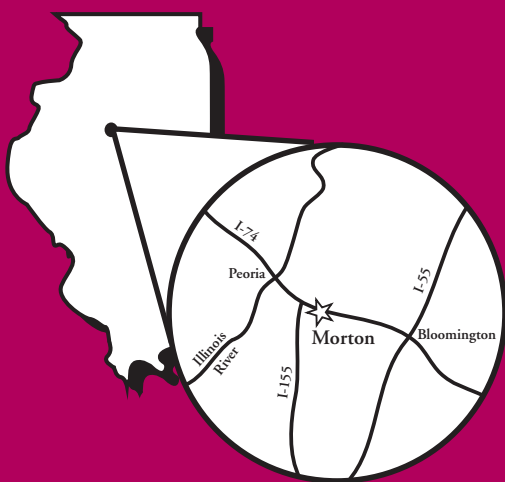
April 12, 2008

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. 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

Name _____

Wife's name (if attending) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church/Ministry _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Email _____

Registration cost if postmarked by April 9, 2008: Check ONE

Pastor ONLY \$95 Pastor & Wife \$120 Full-time Student \$35

Registration cost _____

After April 9: add \$20 to total registration cost _____

Lincoln Museum tour cost _____ x \$10.00 = _____

John Deere Pavilion tour cost _____ x \$ 5.00 = _____

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 ONE—per day—per person registered

In-depth Seminars—Tuesday

Pastor Wife Title

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>How to Plant a Healthy Small-Town Church</i> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Keeping Passion Alive in Ministry (Women)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Resource Management in Town and Country Ministry</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Maximizing the Strengths of the Town/Country Church</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reasons Why a Husband & Wife Cannot Love</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reversing Decline in a Long-Established Church</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>From Youth Group to Church</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>The Nuts & Bolts of Rural Ministry</i> |

In-depth Seminars—Wednesday

Pastor Wife Title

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Juggling 101 (Women)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>From Reactive to Intentional Ministry</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Understanding & Managing Rural/Urban Differences</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Resolving Emotional Pain</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Illustrating the Sermon (Men)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>How Small Can Be Huge</i> |

In-depth Seminar—Wednesday afternoon

Pastor Wife Title

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Leading Through Change</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Special Events

Tuesday noon

Get-to-Know-RHMA presentation

Many have asked the question, "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.

Wednesday afternoon

Following are activity possibilities for Wednesday afternoon. Please check the activity of your choosing and send the appropriate fee with your registration.

Leading Through Change Seminar with Barney Wells 1:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Whether your community is growing or declining, change is taking place. In this seminar we will explore the kinds of changes that are happening, along with the accompanying challenges and opportunities.

There is no additional cost for this seminar.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Tour (limited to 40 people)

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.



The cost for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Tour 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 April 9.

The Lincoln Sites (limited to 15 people)

Travel to Springfield, Illinois, with those taking in the Presidential Museum and discover the rich heritage of Abraham Lincoln as you tour Lincoln's Home, Tomb, and the Old State Capitol building.

A fee of \$6.00 per person will be collected when you arrive at registration to help cover the cost of admission to the Old State Capitol and transportation.

John Deere Pavilion and Collectors Center Tour (limited to 47 people)

In 1837 John Deere invented his famous steel plow in his blacksmith shop. This forged the beginnings of Deere & Company, which has grown to become the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural and forestry equipment. The John Deere

John Deere
PAVILION

Special Events *continued*

Pavilion and Collectors Center, located in downtown Moline, Illinois, showcases modern-day and vintage John Deere equipment. It is also recognized as the world's most comprehensive agricultural exhibit. Merchandise items and reference materials can also be found in the adjacent John Deere Store.

The cost for the John Deere Pavilion and Collectors Center Tour is \$5.00/person and is IN ADDITION to your conference registration. Advanced reservations are required. Therefore no refund will be given and we must receive your tour reservation by April 9.

Shoppes at Grand Prairie (limited to 46 people)

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, Bergner's, Borders, Chico's, Claire's, Coldwater Creek, Eddie Bauer, Linens 'N Things, Old Navy, and Yankee Candle.

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

Golf Outing (limited to 46 people)

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

The cost will be determined and the fee will be collected at registration. We will contact you before the conference with further information.

To help us with planning, please indicate your choices below. This registration does not commit you to your selection. You may change it upon arrival. (Exceptions: Lincoln Museum and John Deere tours.)

Tuesday, April 29 Lunch

Pastor Wife

 Option 1 – Fellowship with small-town pastors and wives

 Option 2 – Get-to-Know-RHMA presentation

Wednesday, April 30 Activities (please check one per person)

Pastor Wife

 Leading Through Change Seminar with Barney Wells
 *Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Tour (\$10.00/person)**

 Lincoln Sites Tour (\$6.00/person)

 *John Deere Pavilion & Collectors Center Tour (\$5.00/person)**

 Shoppes at Grand Prairie Bus Trip (\$2.00/person)

 Golf Outing (fee to be determined)

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



Box 300
Morton, IL 61550

Join us at our Small-Town Pastors' Conference!

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Return Service Requested

