

2012 Small-Town Pastors' Conference

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



April 23-25
Morton, Illinois

Ordinary Pastor, Extraordinary God.

Duane Litfin



President Emeritus, Wheaton
College; former small-town
pastor; former professor, Dallas
Theological Seminary; author

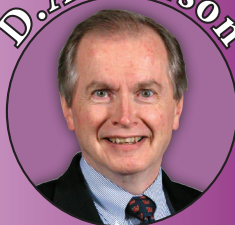
Featuring

Kendra Smiley



Host of the nationwide daily radio
program *Live Life Intentionally*;
frequent women's speaker;
author of several books; has
lived all her life in rural Illinois;
selected as Illinois Mother of
the Year 2001

D.A. Carson



Research Professor of New
Testament, Trinity Evangelical
Divinity School; small-church
pastor's kid; author of many
books including a biography
of his father, *Memoirs of an
Ordinary Pastor*



**Rural Home
Missionary Association**

1942 • 2012
Years, One Mission
RHMA

Ron Klassen



Ordinary Is Okay

RHMA Executive Director

I want to introduce you to Tom. During his 81 years, Tom was a loving husband, a kind and wise father, and a faithful small-church pastor. I doubt you have heard of Tom. If you have, it's probably because his son, Don Carson, wrote *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor: The Life and Reflections of Tom Carson*. In his introduction, Don explains his purpose for writing this book:

Some pastors, mightily endowed by God, are remarkable gifts to the church. . . . We thank God for such Christian leaders from the past and pray for the current ones. . . . Most of us, however, serve in more modest patches. . . . Most of us – let us be frank – are ordinary pastors. Dad was one of them. This little book is a modest attempt to let the voice and ministry of one ordinary pastor be heard, for such servants have much to teach us.

Do you sometimes find yourself discouraged by your own ordinariness? Restless in the ordinary place in which you find yourself? Frustrated, perhaps exhausted, in the midst of your attempts to overcome or escape your ordinary circumstances? Perhaps a bit of encouragement from the ordinary – like Tom Carson (via his son, Don) – will help. Perhaps some reminders from God's Word regarding matters that really count. Perhaps a refocusing on our extraordinary God.

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

A handwritten signature of Ron Klassen in black ink.

**Can't come to
the Morton Conference?**

**Join us in Lancaster, Pennsylvania
October 1-3, 2012**

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

What others are saying . . .

Kent Hughes



“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.”

Senior Pastor Emeritus, College Church, Wheaton, Illinois; author; conference speaker; member, RHMA’s Board of Reference

Warren W. Wiersbe



“If you’re weary of meetings where you’re a statistic instead of a person and where they try to minister to people by the acre, then the RHMA conference is for you. The speakers come from the trenches, not from ivory towers, and the sessions are practical because they deal with what’s going on today. You’ll feel right at home, believe me!”

Author; longtime pastor and conference speaker; 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 \$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.

iLEAD Center



LANCASTER
BIBLE COLLEGE

Meet the Seminar Leaders

Bill Allison



Founder and Executive Director, Cadre International; author; former small-town youth pastor

Mark Danielson



RHMA's Director of Mission Ministries; former church planter, Mullen, Nebraska

Gary Goreham



Chair and Professor of Rural Sociology, North Dakota State University; author, including *Encyclopedia of Rural America*

Ron Klassen



Executive Director, RHMA; former small-town pastor; author, including *No Little Places — The Untapped Potential of the Small-Town Church*

Jim Mason



Professor Emeritus, Bethel Seminary; teaching specialty: town and country ministry; former small-town pastor; lives in rural Minnesota and attends a country church

Ken Muck



Pastor (for 23 years), Countryside Bible Church, Monmouth, Illinois; strong advocate of bivocational pastoring – for many years he has continued to be bivocational out of desire not necessity

Women's teacher, staff counselor, and pastor's wife, Grace Evangelical Church, Morton, Illinois; professor, Lincoln Christian College; former missionary in remote Africa

Kathy Petersen



Larry and Kerry Van Gundy



Larry is Associate Pastor of Outreach and Care, East White Oak Bible Church, Carlock, Illinois; they formerly served for more than 20 years as pastoral couple in a town of less than 1,000 people; Larry is a member of RHMA's Board of Directors

Executive Director, Village Missions; former small-town pastor, Finchford, Iowa, and Red Feather Lakes, Colorado

Brian Wechsler



Barney Wells



Consultant and professor for RHMA's TACT Program; professor, Lincoln Christian Seminary; was a country church pastor for 34 years; author, including *Leading Through Change – Shepherd the Town and Country Church in a New Era*

Seminars

Plenary Seminar — Tuesday morning

How to Think Wisely About Suffering and Evil

D.A. Carson

In this seminar we do not approach suffering as if it can be addressed with a few proof-texts. Rather, we reflect on how we should think about suffering in the light of the massive truths about God and redemption disclosed in Scripture: creation, fall, heaven and hell, providence, the cross and resurrection of Jesus, and more.

Seminars — Tuesday afternoon **Each seminar is a two-part series.**

The Church's Role in Rural Community Betterment

Gary Goreham

Jeremiah encouraged the Jewish exiles to “seek the welfare of the city...” (Jer. 29:7). How might church members appropriately and effectively do this today? This seminar will take an asset-based approach as opposed to a deficit-based approach for community ministry, with Nehemiah providing a model for us to consider.

Leading through Change and Conflict

Parts 1 & 2 of 4

Jim Mason

Change and conflict are constants. They provide the most difficult challenges and the greatest opportunities for leadership. This seminar will explore the unique dynamics of change and conflict in town and country churches, examine biblically grounded strategies for addressing conflict effectively, and encourage the creation of a congregational ethos within which change and conflict can be experienced positively.

Five Loaves and Two Fish: The Blessing of Being Ordinary Women (ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN)

Kathy Petersen

When God places us in an outpost of His big kingdom, our limited resources meet up with unlimited needs. How do we not become

overwhelmed, hyperactive, or exhausted? Using personal stories and the teaching of Jesus, Kathy will share how God led her to thrive in the blessing of being ordinary.

Preaching the Word and Loving the People

Brian Wechsler

Walter Duff, founder of Village Missions, boiled down small-town ministry into this simple phrase. Can it really be that simple? How does this translate into daily ministry? How many difficulties in ministry can be traced to failing to follow this approach? What are the obstacles we face if we follow this approach?

Seminars — Wednesday morning
Each seminar is a two-part series.

The Pastor as Community Leader

Gary Goreham

Pastors fill many roles, both within and outside the church, one of which is leadership. We will discuss servant and transformational approaches to leadership which are congruent with the church's mission to the community and world. We will examine practical tools pastors can use as leaders, seek to determine our present skill levels, and explore ways to enhance our skills.

The Pastor's Family and Small-Town Ministry

Ron Klassen

We will look together at the benefits and challenges experienced by families who are ministering in town and country areas.

Word versus Deed in our Ministry: The Search for a Biblical Balance

Duane Litfin

"Preach the Gospel every day, with words if necessary." This famous slogan is misguided on several counts. Why must the Gospel be put into words if it is to be the biblical Gospel at all? What is the proper role of our deeds in carrying out our Gospel mission? This seminar is designed to focus on the Bible's answer to these important ministry questions.

Leading through Change and Conflict

Parts 3 & 4

Jim Mason

This seminar is a continuation of Tuesday's, with parts 3 and 4 focusing on conflict resolution, management, and prevention.

If Only . . . What If . . .

(ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN)

Kendra Smiley

There are "if onlys" and "what ifs" in everyone's life. The "if onlys" are the negative circumstances of the past. The "what ifs" are those that may occur in the future. The Lord does not want us to allow either of these unproductive (and sometimes crippling) patterns of thinking to control our lives.

The Expectation Trap: Dealing with Legitimate and Not-So-Legitimate Expectations

Brian Wechsler

Unrealistic expectations for ourselves and others can cause constant discouragement and even sabotage our ministry. Yet, some expectations are legitimate. How do we tell the difference? How do we keep from the frustration created by false expectations while at the same time challenging ourselves and our people?

Rural Ministry 101

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!

Seminars — Wednesday afternoon
Each seminar is one session.

Youth Ministry in a Rural Context

Bill Allison

If you're looking for a high impact youth ministry, not just a youth program, you'll want to be a part of this learning experience. This seminar takes you back to the heart of authentic biblical ministry and life change, and accentuates the advantages of small-town youth ministry.

Values-Driven Ministry in the Small-Town Church

Mark Danielson

It is easy to veer off course in small-town ministry. Discover and implement the foundational values that will drive your church to development rather than depletion.

Bivocational Pastoring

Ken Muck

Is your goal to be full time in the ministry or could it be a different goal? Might bivocational pastoring involve equipping your church family to better minister to each other and your community?

Guiding the Journey of a Strong-Willed Child

(ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN)

Kendra Smiley

Have you been blessed by the presence of a high-maintenance child in your church, Sunday School classroom, or home? Are you wondering how the words “blessed” and “high-maintenance child” can appear in the same sentence? Take heart! Kendra will help us understand the strong-willed nature and give us insight into how to guide that child so that he or she will not only survive but thrive!

Weathering the Storms

Larry and Kerry Van Gundy

Serving in a rural context can mean experiencing lots of storms in life and ministry. This seminar will provide encouragement for getting through those rainy days.

Who Lives in Rural America Today?

Barney Wells

Rural America today is the most demographically diverse it has ever been. In terms of ethnicity, cultural and religious heritage, age, occupation, and income, there are many new trends. Find out what’s happening and spark your thinking for ministry to this diverse group of people.



Schedule

Monday, April 23

- 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 D.A. Carson
The Ironies of the Cross (Matthew 27:27-51)
- 8:30 p.m. Celebrating RHMA's 70th/Fellowship time

Tuesday, April 24

- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session with Ron Klassen
The Healthy Ordinary Small-Town Church
- 10:00 a.m. Break (with drinks)
- 10:30 a.m. Plenary Session Seminar with D.A. Carson
How to Think Wisely About Suffering and Evil
- 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:30 a.m. Plenary Session Seminar with D.A. Carson
(continued)
- 12:15 p.m. Box Lunches/Options
Free time – Several options for fun
Seminars – Starting at 1:30 p.m.,
concluding at 3:15 p.m.
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session with D.A. Carson
How to be Greater than Isaiah (Matthew 11:2-19)

Wednesday, April 25

- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session with Duane Litfin
He Must Increase...
- 9:45 a.m. Break (with drinks)
- 10:30 a.m. Seminars, Sessions 1 & 2
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch/Options
Fellowship with small-town pastors and wives
Get-to-Know RHMA presentation
- 1:15 p.m. Stand-alone Seminars (1-hour)
- 2:15 p.m. Ladies' Tea with Kendra Smiley
Men's Dessert Forum with the speakers
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Closing Plenary Session with Duane Litfin
...and We Must Decrease



Information

REGISTRATION COSTS

POSTMARKED BY APRIL 10:

Pastor ONLY:	\$100
Pastor & Wife:	\$130
Full-time Student:	\$40
Full-time Student and Wife:	\$65

After April 10: ADD \$20 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

Special rates have been secured at the following hotels:

Holiday Inn Express and Suites \$99.00
140 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 (special rates
Phone: 309.263.4400 expire 3/24)

Best Western Ashland House \$80.99
201 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 (special rates
Phone: 309.263.5116 expire 4/17)

Baymont Inn and Suites \$64.99 - \$89.99
210 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 (special rates
Phone: 309.266.8888 expire 4/01)

Quality Inn \$70.99
115 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 (special rates
Phone: 309.266.8310 expire 4/17)

Travelodge \$68.99
101 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 (special rates
Phone: 309.266.1600 expire 4/17)

All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast.
The Holiday Inn, Best Western, and Baymont Inn have indoor pools. To make your reservation, 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.

While families are important to us, this conference is for pastors and wives. 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

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 _____ Work _____

Email _____

Registration cost if postmarked by April 10: Check where appropriate

Pastor ONLY ☐ \$100 Pastor & Wife ☐ \$130

Full-time Student ☐ \$40 Full-time Student & Wife ☐ \$65

Registration cost _____

After April 20: Add \$20 to the total registration cost _____

Lincoln Museum fee _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Total \$ _____

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.

Choose ONE - per section - per person registered

Tuesday Afternoon Seminars

Pastor Wife Title

☐☐

The Church's Role in Rural Community Betterment

☐☐

Leading through Change and Conflict (**Parts 1 & 2**)

☐

Five Loaves and Two Fish: The Blessing of Being Ordinary Women

☐☐

Preaching the Word and Loving the People

Wednesday Morning Seminars

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The Pastor as Community Leader

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The Pastor's Family and Small-Town Ministry

☐☐

Word versus Deed in our Ministry: The Search for a Biblical Balance

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Leading through Change and Conflict (**Parts 3 & 4**)

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If Only . . . What If . . .

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The Expectation Trap: Dealing with Legitimate and Not-So-Legitimate Expectations

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Rural Ministry 101

Wednesday Afternoon Seminars

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Youth Ministry in a Rural Context

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Values-Driven Ministry in the Small-Town Church

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Bivocational Pastoring

☐

Guiding the Journey of a Strong-Willed Child

☐☐

Weathering the Storms

☐☐

Who Lives in Rural America Today?

THREE WAYS TO PAY

1. Make check payable to RHMA and mail with this form.

2. Or pay with: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

3 Digit Security Code

Signature _____

3. Or register online and pay there with a credit card.

(continued over)

Special Events

Tuesday afternoon

In addition to seminars, 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.

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

Tuesday, April 24 Activities

(please check one per person)

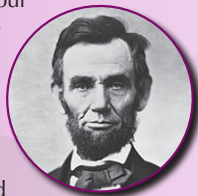
Pastor Wife Event

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum (\$10.00/person)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caterpillar Tour (no cost) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ladies Shopping (no cost) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trap Shooting and Fishing (no cost) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Golf Outing (fee to be determined) |

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

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/person and is IN ADDITION to your conference registration fee. Advanced tickets for the tour are required. Therefore no refund will be given.



Caterpillar Tour

(Limited to 15 people)



This is the facility where the D-7 through D-11 Track-Type Tractors are assembled — the largest Cat Track-Type Tractors.



Bass Pro Shops

(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!

Just opened!



Ladies Shopping

(Limited to 15 people)

Take a van ride to Bloomington, Illinois, for an afternoon of indoor mall shopping. Just a few stores to choose from are: Aéropostale, American Eagle Outfitters, The Back Store, Bath & Body Works, Bergner's, Buckle, Christopher & Banks, Claire's, C.J. Banks, deb, The Digital Store Verizon, Express, Finish Line, Foot Locker, Gap, GapKids, JCPenney, Kirlin's Hallmark, Kohl's, Lids, The Limited, Macy's, maurices, MC Sports, Old Navy, Payless Shoesource, Sears.

Trap Shooting and Fishing

(Limited to 15 people)

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



Golf Outing

(Limited to 15 people)

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 RHMA's
Small-Town Pastors'
Conference!*

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ORGANIZATION
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