

2013 Small-Town Pastors' Conference

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

Weathering the Storms

Featuring

Rejoicing



Bryan Chapell

Chancellor and former president, Covenant Seminary; four small-town pastorates; author, including *Christ-Centered Preaching*

Patient



Paige Patterson

President, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; former pastor (including a country church pastorate); has traveled and ministered in more than 125 countries; widely-published author; avid hunter

"Rejoicing in Hope, Patient in Tribulation, Constant in Prayer."

Romans 12:12

Constant



Mark Bearden

Revivalist with Life Action Ministries; widely involved in revival ministries in hundreds of small towns across the U.S.



April 29-May 1
Morton, Illinois



**Rural Home
Missionary Association**



Ron Klassen
Executive Director

Twenty Years of Conference Ministry

We hope you can join us for our 20th conference in Illinois! Twenty conferences back we began with some simple desires. We wanted our conferences to –

- be tailored for those who are serving in town and country places.
- feature speakers and seminar leaders who understand town and country ministry and have a heart for it.
- validate the significance of ministry in town and country areas.
- provide a big dose of encouragement, so that attenders will return to their places of ministry with renewed passion and energy.
- be a place where insights are gleaned that will help us be more effective in our ministries.
- take place in a down-home, warm, and friendly atmosphere.

About 75 came to that first conference. Over the years, many hundreds more have attended, from over 30 states and Canada. And, this is just in Illinois. We've also hosted conferences in at least five other locations, and some of them multiple times.

We'd love to have you be a part of this year's conference experience!

Can't come to the Morton Conference?

**Join us in Dallas, Texas
October 21-23, 2013**

For more information, 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 Seminar Leaders



Pastor and wife, First Congregational Church, Crawford, Nebraska; RHMA staff missionaries

Bill and Laura Bagley



Author of more than two dozen books, including *The Friendships of Women*; speaker; teacher; frequent guest on Moody Radio and Focus on the Family; grew up in a small town in Wisconsin

Dee Brestin



Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies, Moody Bible Institute; RHMA consultant; former District Superintendent, Northern Plains District of the Evangelical Free Church; former small-town church planter

Mike Boyle



President, Montana Bible College; former small-town pastor (for 25 years); former Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Bible Mission

Jim Carlson



RHMA's Director of Mission Ministries; former small-town church planter, Mullen, Nebraska; former deputy sheriff, Hooker County, Nebraska

Mark Danielson

Meet the Seminar Leaders

Continued



Ron Klassen

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



Steve and Priscilla Mathewson

Senior Pastor and wife, Evangelical Free Church, Libertyville, Illinois; for more than 20 years they served as a pastoral couple in rural Montana; Steve is the son of a former RHMA Director and an author, including the recently released *RISEN: Fifty Reasons Why the Resurrection Changed Everything*



Phil Somers

Associate Pastor and for 25 years the Senior Pastor, New Castle Bible Church, Mackinaw, Illinois; member, RHMA's Board of Directors



Tim Stafford

Pastor of Music Ministries at The Moody Church, Chicago, Illinois; vocalist; guitarist; conductor; adjunct professor in the Sacred Music Department, Moody Bible Institute



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*; *Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*

Seminars

Tuesday Morning Seminars

(two 45-minute sessions)

Prayer: Advancing the Church in the World

Mark Bearden

This seminar title reflects Jonathan Edwards' belief. The greatest need in the church today is a sweeping movement of God, which shows the priority that prayer should have in our lives. This seminar will include a discussion about praying in faith – one of the most misunderstood concepts in the church today.

The God of All Comfort; Finding Your Way into His Arms

Dee Brestin

When storms come, we often think *How can I possibly get through this?* The psalms of lament have been my lifeline when my biggest storms hit, helping me through the river of grief and into God's arms.

Preaching the Gospel from All the Bible

Bryan Chapell

During our time together we will discern how to preach the motivating and empowering grace from all Scripture that culminates in Christ.

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 \$8.50 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.



Seminars

Continued

Administering the Town and Country Church

Ron Klassen

It has been said that administrators aren't boring people, they just get excited about boring things! If you find yourself unexcited or ill-equipped, this seminar will improve your outlook and skills. If you like administration and are pretty good at it, this seminar will affirm you and sharpen your skills.

The Pastor's Family Life in a Small Town

Steve and Priscilla Mathewson

Being a small-town pastor's family presents some unique challenges. How can we balance the sacrifices we are called to make as servants of Christ with the need to set boundaries? How can we help our children view life in a pastor's family as a privilege and not a liability? How can we extend love to our community and church while still making our home a safe haven for our families? By applying biblical wisdom, pastoral families can thrive in small-town ministry!

Worship: Building a Culture around the Word

Tim Stafford

Do you like traditional worship? Do you like contemporary worship? Do you think blended is the answer? Come to this session to explore the reasons we ask these questions and why we shouldn't have to anymore.

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!

Tuesday Afternoon Seminars

(during free time, two 45-minute sessions)

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 Biblical mission and values, the phases of planting, church culture, and the importance of being a healthy church planter.

Community Powerbrokers: Gatekeepers to the Lost

Jim Carlson

A right theological perspective on the community to which God has called us is critical to our Kingdom work there. Equally important is seeing how certain people are gatekeepers to the lost. Who are these gatekeepers and how are we able to enlist their influence for the sake of the gospel?

Worship: Arranged for Flute, Banjo, and Tuba; Common Sense and Ideas for Worship in the Normal Church

Tim Stafford

You're not looking for in-ear monitor systems, fog machines, 3-D screens, and disco lights. You need ideas to help you plan a variety of meaningful services, even if the bass player gets sick, the pianist is on vacation, and the pastor, music director, and janitor are all the same guy.

Seminars

Continued

Tomorrow's Challenges for Town and Country Ministry

Barney Wells

Rural America is changing demographically, economically, and philosophically. Populations are dwindling in some communities, swelling in others, and the people who live there think differently than rural folk have traditionally thought. This seminar will look at some of the ways these changes may affect churches and ministry in small-town America over the next couple of decades.

Wednesday Seminars

(one-hour stand-alone, repeated in afternoon)

Chastening and Testing

Mark Bearden

This seminar will help us understand what God is trying to accomplish when storms come. Often we confuse being tested by God with being chastened for sin. This confusion can cause us to misunderstand God's purpose.

Idol Lies; Facing the Truth about Our Deepest Desires

Dee Brestin

"My name is Dee, and I am an idolater." Oh, I don't worship statues, but I have become aware that there are ways I often try to rescue myself other than trusting God. During our time together we will discuss heart idols (which often are not visible) and the bad fruit they produce (which we often can see).

Taking the Old School to School

Jim Carlson

Depending on where and when we were trained for pastoral ministry, it is possible (likely even) that we picked up principles that may be neither biblical nor realistic. This seminar identifies eight notions which we might be wise to re-think.

Developing Leaders in the Small-Town Church

Mark Danielson

Developing leaders in the small-town church should be a rewarding experience. Many times it's not. We will uncover some biblical strategies to move past the personalities and limitations that hinder progress in the church.

How the Resurrection Shapes Pastoral Ministry

Steve Mathewson

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! This changes everything about our lives as Christ-followers, including the way we do ministry. This seminar will explore how the resurrection makes a difference in the way we live and carry out Christ's great commission – particularly in small-town ministry.

Developing a Vision for Your Town and Country Church

Phil Somers

Vision is often looked upon as something for the big corporations and the big churches. Yet a biblical vision is, in essence, simply sensing God's will for the development of your local congregation – something we all need to pursue, regardless of the size or location of our church.

Schedule

Monday, April 29

- 4:00–5:15 p.m. Registration at RHMA's headquarters building,
310 E. Courtland St., Morton
Check into hotels
- 5:30 p.m. Supper at Grace Evangelical Church
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session
Story tellers: Bill and Laura Bagley
Speaker: Bryan Chapell
Hope for the Useless (Judges 7)
- 8:30 p.m. Fellowship time

Tuesday, April 30

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer meeting with Carey Gossen
- 8:45 a.m. Extended Plenary Session
Guest worship leader: Tim Stafford
Speaker: Mark Bearden
The Key to Ministering in God's Power
(Matthew 26:36-54)
- 10:00 a.m. Break (with drinks)
- 10:45 a.m. In-depth Seminars
(two-part, 45 minutes each session)
- 12:30 p.m. Box Lunches/Options
Free time – Lots of options for fun
In-depth Seminars
(two-part, 45 minutes each session)
– starting at 1:30, concluding at 3:15
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session
Story tellers: Bill and Laura Bagley
Speaker: Bryan Chapell
A First Repenter (Numbers 14:1-20)

Wednesday, May 1

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen
- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session with Paige Patterson
Patient in Tribulation – Part 1
- 9:45 a.m. Break (with drinks)
- 10:30 a.m. Stand-alone Seminars
(one hour, all repeated Wed. afternoon)
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch/Options
Fellowship with small-town pastors and wives
Get-to-Know RHMA presentation
- 12:45 p.m. Stand-alone Seminars
(one hour, all repeated from Wed. morning)
- 1:45 p.m. Ladies' Tea with Dee Brestin
The Friendships of Women
Men's Dessert Forum with Paige Patterson
Weathering the Storms of Ministry
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Closing Plenary Session
Story tellers: Bill and Laura Bagley
Speaker: Paige Patterson
Patient in Tribulation – Part 2

Information

REGISTRATION COSTS

POSTMARKED BY APRIL 13:

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

After April 13: ADD \$20 to the total registration cost.

Registration includes lunches, suppers, and conference materials.

Registration costs are non-refundable after April 13.

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

LODGING

Special rates have been secured at the following hotels:

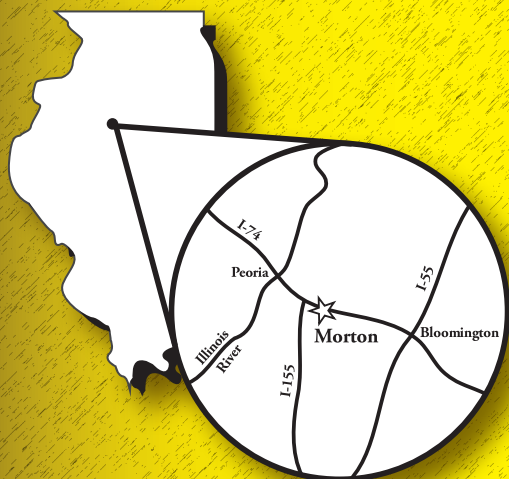
Holiday Inn Express and Suites	\$105.00
140 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550	(special rates
Phone: 309-263-4400	expire 3/30)
Best Western Ashland House	\$80.99
201 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550	(special rates
Phone: 309-263-5116	expire 4/17)
Baymont Inn and Suites	\$64.99 - \$74.99
210 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550	(special rates
Phone: 309-266-8888	expire 3/29)
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



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 13: Check where appropriate

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

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

Registration cost _____

After April 13: Add \$20 to the total registration cost _____

Special Event fee _____ x \$5.00 = _____

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.

Tuesday Morning Seminars

Choose ONE per person

Pastor Wife Title

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prayer: Advancing the Church in the World |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The God of All Comfort; Finding Your Way into His Arms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Preaching the Gospel from All the Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Administrating the Town and Country Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Pastor's Family Life in a Small Town |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Worship: Building a Culture around the Word |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rural Ministry 101 |

Tuesday Afternoon Seminars

Choose ONE per person

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | How to Plant a Healthy Small-Town Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Powerbrokers: Gatekeepers to the Lost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Worship: Arranged for Flute, Banjo, and Tuba |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tomorrow's Challenges for Town and Country Ministry |

Wednesday Seminars

Choose TWO per person (each seminar is repeated)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chastening and Testing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Idol Lies; Facing the Truth about Our Deepest Desires |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Taking the Old School to School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Developing Leaders in the Small-Town Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | How the Resurrection Shapes Pastoral Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Developing a Vision for Your Town and Country Church |

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 or from your bank account.

Questions? Give us a call: 866-263-2350. **(continued over)**

Special Events

Tuesday afternoon

In addition to seminars, following are activity possibilities for Tuesday afternoon. Please check the activity of your choosing.

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 30 Activities

(please check one per person)

Pastor Wife Event

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caterpillar Visitors Center (\$5.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The "Ag Lab" (no cost) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Lincoln Sites (\$5.00/person) |
| | <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) |

Caterpillar Visitors Center

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-



Just opened!

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 in 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.

National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research

The "Ag Lab" in Peoria is the largest of four regional USDA labs. It is where the first mass production of penicillin was developed. That and other early scientific accomplishments set a standard of research excellence, generating global and enduring impact and consistently bringing credit to the



United States Department of Agriculture. Another discovery – while conducting work on materials to improve water conservation in soils – was the "super slurper," which is now used in products as diverse as disposable diapers and artificial snow! The Ag Lab scientists not only study crops and livestock to improve both quality and quantity, but they devise new ways of using those crops to add value, increase exports, improve human health, and protect the environment. There is no cost for this tour.

The Lincoln Sites

"Mr. & Mrs. Abe" will be our tour guides on this trip to Springfield. We will first visit the Lincoln home, which has been restored to its 1860 appearance when the Lincolns lived there. Next we'll visit The Old State Capitol. As a legislator, Lincoln had been instrumental in moving the capital from Vandalia to Springfield. The city outgrew the capitol building while Lincoln was president, and work on a new statehouse began soon after his death. Lincoln's body lay in this building as a crowd of 75,000 mourners filed past to pay their last respects. From there we go out to the cemetery and view the tomb where the Lincolns and three of their sons are buried. The Lincoln Tomb was designated in 1960 as one of the first National Historic Landmarks. Cost of the tour is \$5.00.



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!



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.

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 20th
Small-Town Pastors'
Conference!*

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ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
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