

Join us at RHMA's
1st Small-Town Pastors'
Conference in Texas!



Box 300
Morton, IL 61550

Return Service Requested

No Little Places

*"In God's sight there are no little people
and no little places."*

— Francis Schaeffer —

Small-Town Pastors' Conference

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

Featuring:



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



Dave Wyrzten
Longtime small-town
pastor, Midlothian Bible
Church, Midlothian,
Texas



Phil Tuttle
President, Walk
Thru the Bible;
former small-
town pastor

October 12 - 14, 2009

*The Salvation Army Hoblitzelle
Camp & Conference Center*

Midlothian, Texas



Rural Home Missionary Association
*Over 65 Years of Planting & Strengthening
Churches in Small Towns*

**Midlothian
Bible Church**



Come Expectantly!

Ron Klassen, RHMA Executive Director

Have you been wishing for a conference tailored to your ministry context? Wishing you could hear from speakers who understand your unique circumstances? Wishing for encouragement in your small place?

In 1994 RHMA launched such a conference in Illinois. It has been widely appreciated and maxed out in size, prompting us to offer similar conferences elsewhere in the U.S. and Canada. We were quite pleased when Midlothian Bible Church eagerly agreed to partner with us in offering this kind of conference in Texas – a part of the country where we have not previously hosted a conference. We are also grateful for the Hoblitzelle Camp and Conference Center – their facilities are top-notch and they have a wonderful staff ready to serve you.

This brochure is your invitation to join us! You will find yourself in a place where your ministry is affirmed and valued. Come expecting to be built up and stretched. Come expecting to gain new insights into how to more effectively serve in your small town and also renewed passion and vigor to see God work through you.

Ron Klassen

Can't come to
the Texas Conference?

**Join us in Morton, Illinois
April 19 – 21, 2010**

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

Welcome!



**Dave Wyrzten
Pastor, Midlothian Bible Church**

Welcome to Midlothian, Texas – the cement capital of the world. When my wife and I arrived here in 1973 to help give birth to Midlothian Bible Church, the original group of about eight families warmly welcomed us to rural Texas. Our town has grown much in 36 years, but we pray that the same Texas hospitality made infinitely richer through Christ's Spirit will breathe inexpressible joy and renewed confidence into your ministry at our upcoming conference.

Around the world Jesus is impacting megalopolises, cities, and suburbs, but He is also continuing to move in small towns and rural areas. When you're living in the middle of acres of cotton or corn, it's easy to feel alone and insignificant. In a world of mega-churches and high-tech media, it's easy to forget the powerful role that Jesus still has for us in small-town ministry.

We pray that the Savior who worked with wood and stone as a laborer in Galilee for more years than He was a rabbi in Jerusalem will breathe new strength into your personal life, marriage, and church ministry.

Check out the bunk house, throw down your duds, and let's check in on what God wants to do deep in our lives deep in the heart of Texas.

David B. Wyrzten

Continuing Education Credit

You can receive 1.2 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

Meet the Conference Speakers & Seminar Leaders



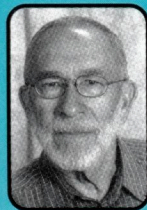
Mark Bailey

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



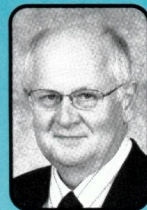
Ron & Roxy Klassen

Executive Director, RHMA; former
small-town pastoral couple; author



Jim Mason

Professor Emeritus, Bethel Seminary; teaching
specialty: town and country ministry; former
small-town pastor



Keith Miller

Professor, Bible & Theology, Calvary Bible
College, Kansas City, Missouri; was a country
church pastor for 19 years



Patricia Miller

Program Director for Biblical Counseling,
Calvary Bible College, Kansas City, Missouri;
was a country church pastor's wife for 19
years; women's ministry speaker



Phil Tuttle

President, Walk Thru the Bible; former small-
town pastor

Speakers continued...



Jeff VanGoethem

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



Barney Wells

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



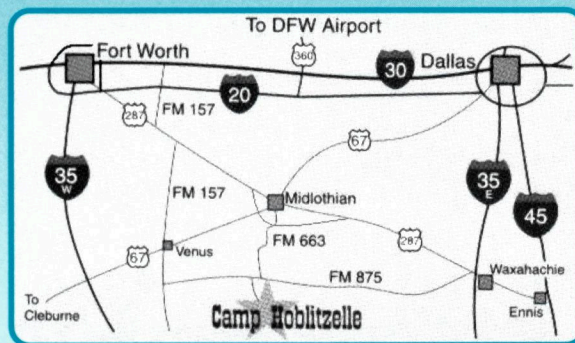
Dave Wyrzten

Longtime small-town pastor, Midlothian
Bible Church, Midlothian, Texas; adjunct
professor, Dallas Theological Seminary



Don Wyrzten

Composer, concert artist, and professor of
church music at Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary
Don will be sharing in some of the worship times.



The Salvation Army Hoblitzelle Camp & Conference Center
8060 Singleton Rd
Midlothian, TX 76065

Seminars

In-depth Seminars — Tuesday

Each seminar is a three-part series.

Understanding Your Small-Town Congregation
Parts 1-3 of 5

Jim Mason

Effective pastoral leadership requires a clear and accurate understanding of the unique identity of a congregation—particularly in the intimacy of a small-town or rural setting. This seminar will provide means to explore and clarify the sometimes puzzling behaviors which inhibit ministry effectiveness in congregations and their communities.

The Nuts and Bolts of Rural Pastoral Ministry
Parts 1-3 of 5

Keith Miller

These sessions will provide practical advice for rural ministry. Sessions one through three will cover topics such as: weddings and funerals, the church board, and the services of the church.

Counseling Women in the Local Church
Parts 1-3 of 5

Especially for Women

Patricia Miller

This seminar is an overview of biblical counseling and giving guidance to women. It will include practical aspects of preparation for the unexpected, what approach to use, and how to use Scripture in counseling. Specific discussion will include: handling relationship problems biblically, dealing with the past, selfishness, purity, death and grief, and counselees and medication. Discover the potential a counseling ministry can offer in your local church.

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.

Leading Through Change

Barney Wells

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.

Boring History, Numbing Details — Can Old Testament Exposition Live in a World of The Shack, Challenges to Make Love, and Five Steps to Financial Success?

Dave Wyrzten

I'm an Old Testament major, yet I had to confess that when I came to the details of the Ptolemaic vs. Seleucid history in Daniel 11, I was tempted to cut and run to a subject that would more easily touch the felt needs of a Sunday morning crowd. Working from detailed exegesis, to biblical theology, to a homiletical outline, to concrete needs in lives today, and to prayer, in this seminar we will struggle together with a tough passage to see if the Spirit can help us to figure out how He wants to use it to change lives in a Sunday morning message.

In-depth Seminars — Wednesday

Each seminar is a two-part series.

Understanding Your Small-Town Congregation
Parts 4-5

Jim Mason

This seminar will be a continuation of Tuesday's, with an emphasis on the implications of increased congregational understanding for pastoral leadership and programming.

The Nuts and Bolts of Rural Pastoral Ministry
Parts 4-5

Keith Miller

This seminar will be a continuation of Tuesday's, with personal illustrations and creative ideas for visitation and special services such as baptism and communion.

Counseling Women in the Local Church

Parts 4-5

Especially for Women

Patricia Miller

This seminar will be a continuation of Tuesday's, as we further explore the issues pertinent to counseling women in a small-town setting.

Rediscovering the Joys of Ministry

Phil Tuttle

Let's face it: Between board meetings, counseling sessions, sermon preparation, and people with "unique" personalities, it is easy to lose your joy in the midst of local church ministry. It is time for each of us to reorient our motivational compasses to the three sources of joy that kept Paul going through the toughest times of his life.

What Are We to Do with Cohabiting Couples?

Jeff VanGoethem

Over fifty percent of couples marrying today live together prior to marriage. Pastors are encountering these couples every day as they seek weddings in the church. Should pastors agree to perform these weddings? Have these couples helped or hurt their chances for a successful marriage? What kind of stand should pastors take? What kind of counsel should pastors give? Every pastor needs to think through this issue.

Reaching New Rural Americans for Christ

Barney Wells

A look at how postmodern influences are affecting rural American culture, and how we need to strategize for evangelism as a result.

Christ and Small-Town Ministry: the Country People Loved Him, the City People Killed Him - Why?

Dave Wyrzten

Herod the Great would have never guessed that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and his son Antipas would have never thought to look for Him in Nazareth. Why did Jesus choose to live as a carpenter in the country for more than 30 years of His life and was it significant that the crowds in Galilee loved Him but the crowd in Judea yelled, "Crucify Him?"

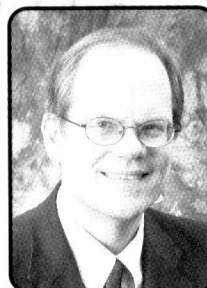
What others are saying . . .



"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."

Mark Bailey

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



"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*



Schedule

Monday, October 12

- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Registration
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Supper
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Plenary Session with Mark Bailey
The Integrity Prerequisites for Leadership
8:30 p.m. Ice Cream and Fellowship

Tuesday, October 13

- 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 - 10:15 a.m. Plenary Session with Dave Wyrzten
Small-Town Ministry - Something Special in Christ's Kingdom
10:30 a.m. - Noon In-depth Seminars, Sessions 1 & 2
Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch
1:15 - 2:15 p.m. In-depth Seminars, Session 3
2:15 - 5:00 p.m. Free Time (at campground or elsewhere)
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Supper
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Plenary Session with Phil Tuttle
Learning to Thrive When You're Struggling to Survive - Part One

Wednesday, October 14

- 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. In-depth Seminars, Sessions 1 & 2
10:45 a.m. - Noon Plenary Session with Phil Tuttle
Learning to Thrive When You're Struggling to Survive - Part Two
Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

Information

Registration Costs

Postmarked By September 23:

Registration and meals ONLY -

- Pastor ONLY: \$100
Pastor & Wife: \$125
Full-time Student: \$40

Lodging extra; see next page.

After September 23: ADD \$20 to the total registration cost.

Registrations will not be accepted after 4:00 p.m., October 7.
Registration costs are non-refundable after September 23.

Meals

Six meals are included in the cost, starting with supper on Monday and concluding with lunch on Wednesday.

Lodging

Hoblitzelle Camp & Conference Center

Our conference is being held at the beautiful Salvation Army Hoblitzelle Camp and Conference Center (www.hoblitzelle.com). We encourage you to stay on the grounds and enjoy the atmosphere and amenities!

For those who will be lodging onsite, the following rooms are available:

- The Barn:** Two twin beds per room, private bath, linens provided - \$55/night/room (20 rooms available)
The Alamo: Four beds per room, private bath, linens provided - \$55/night/room (16 rooms available)
The Dorm: 17 twin beds, shared bath, NO linens provided (bring your own towel, bedding) - \$15/night/person

Both the Barn and the Alamo are available to married couples. Those coming alone can have a private room or are welcome to make their own arrangements to share a room and split the cost in either the Barn or the Alamo (up to four people per room). Room reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you would like to lodge at Hoblitzelle, please call RHMA (1-866-263-2350) for a room confirmation number **before** you send in your reservation. Write your confirmation number on the registration form and include payment with your registration fee. (Rooms requested without a confirmation number will not be honored.) **Rooms are available through September 11 or until sold out.** After that, you will need to make other arrangements.

Hotel Lodging

For those who may want to stay in an area hotel, we have arranged a reduced rate for conference attendees at:

AMERICA'S BEST VALUE INN

795 South I-35
Waxahachie, TX 75165
Phone: 972-937-4982
Rate: \$49.99 per night + tax

When making reservations at America's Best Value Inn, mention RHMA to receive the reduced rate.

Hotel Reservation Deadline: September 28

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

Registration

Pre-Registration for In-depth Seminars

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 September 23: Check ONE

☐ Pastor ONLY \$100 ☐ Pastor & Wife \$125 ☐ Full-time Student \$40

Lodging at Camp Hoblitzelle

☐ The Barn: \$55 x 2 nights ☐ The Alamo: \$55 x 2 nights ☐ The Dorm: \$15 x 2 nights

Registration cost _____

After September 23: add \$20 to total registration cost _____
(Registrations will not be accepted after 4 pm, October 7)

Lodging at Camp Hoblitzelle Confirmation # _____ & cost _____

Total \$ _____

THREE WAYS TO PAY

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

2. Or pay with: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

3. If you register online, you may pay there with a credit card.

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.

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 day—per person registered

In-depth Seminars—Tuesday

| Pastor | Wife | Title |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Understanding Your Small-Town Congregation (Parts 1-3)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <i>The Nuts and Bolts of Rural Pastoral Ministry (Parts 1-3)</i> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Counseling Women in the Local Church (Parts 1-3)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reversing Decline in a Long-Established Small-Town Church</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Leading Through Change</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Boring History, Numbing Details</i> |

In-depth Seminars—Wednesday

| Pastor | Wife | Title |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Understanding Your Small-Town Congregation (Parts 4-5)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <i>The Nuts and Bolts of Rural Pastoral Ministry (Parts 4-5)</i> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Counseling Women in the Local Church (Parts 4-5)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Rediscovering the Joys of Ministry</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>What Are We to Do with Cohabiting Couples?</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reaching New Rural Americans for Christ</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Christ and Small-Town Ministry</i> |

