



**Celebrating the Impact**

# 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*



**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*



**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

**April 24-26**  
**Morton, Illinois**



**Rural Home  
Missionary Association**



## Come and Celebrate With Us!

### **Ron Klassen**

*RHMA Executive Director*



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](http://www.rhma.org).

**RHMA**

Box 300, Morton, IL 61550

Call toll-free: 866-263-2350

[info@rhma.org](mailto: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*

## **Ray Badgero**



Founder and President, The Master's Mission, a ministry in a remote setting with First Nations people of Canada; ministered in rural communities behind the "Iron Curtain" of Eastern Europe; former Chair, Department of World Missions and Evangelism, Moody Bible Institute; member, RHMA Board of Reference

## **Lee Eclow**



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*

## **Sandra Glahn**



Associate Professor of Media Arts & Worship, Dallas Theological Seminary; multi-published author of fiction and non-fiction, including 10 studies in the Coffee Cup Bible Study series

## **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

## **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: Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*

## **Mark Mincy**



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

## **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 *Leading Through Change: Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*

# Seminars

## 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.

# Seminars *(Continued)*

## 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*

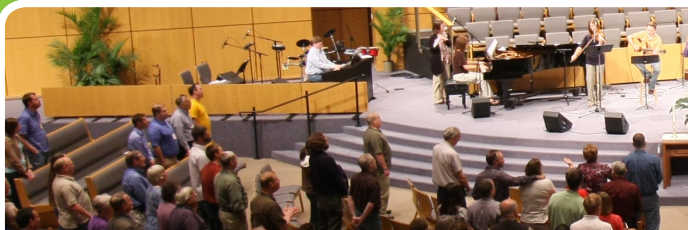
A look at the dynamics of small-town secrets that might govern the interaction and motivation of its members. Sometimes secrets are the missing pieces that stump the outsider in answering the “why” question.

## 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!)*



# 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. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet  
Speaker: Erwin Lutzer  
Reg Grant as C.J. Rediger

*(Continued on next page)*

## Wednesday 11:30

### 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.

# Schedule *(Continued)*

## 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)

### **Continuing Education Credit**

*You can receive 1.0 CEU credit 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 \$10.00 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.*

# Information

## REGISTRATION COSTS

### POSTMARKED BY APRIL 10:

Pastor ONLY:	\$110
Pastor & Wife:	\$150
Full-time Student:	\$50
Full-time Student & Wife:	\$90

**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 -  
140 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$112.00  
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 -  
115 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$79.99 - \$84.99  
Phone: 309-266-8310 (rates expire 3/1)

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

All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast.

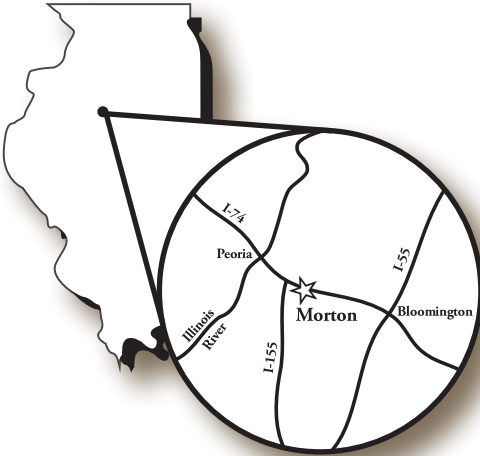
The Holiday Inn, Park Inn, and Baymont Inn have indoor pools. To make your reservation, please call the hotel of your choice. Mention RHMA to receive these rates.

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.*

# Location



## 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

### Pastor Wife Title

Choose ONE per person

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

## Tuesday Afternoon Seminars

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

Choose ONE per person

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Disciplemaking with Youth in a Small-Town Church</i>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Spiritual Architecture – How Pastors Build with Grace</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Worship: When God Is Big and We Are Small</i>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Relationships That Carry You Through the Storms</i>       |

## Tuesday Evening Banquet –

**number of tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ (included in registration)

## Wednesday Seminars

Choose TWO per person (each seminar is repeated)

- |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>The Powerful Secret about Secrets in Small-Town Interaction</i>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Small Town, Big Impact: Women from Sychar, Magdala, and Nazareth</i>                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>The Small Work of Shepherding</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>I Love to Tell the Story: First-Person Narrative Preaching in the Town and Country Context</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Overcoming Depression – The Silent Killer of God's Servants</i>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reaching the Unchurched in Small-Town America</i>  |

Ladies' Tea       Men's Dessert Forum

(continued on the next page)

# 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 ([www.rhma.org](http://www.rhma.org)) and pay there with a credit card or from your bank account.

Questions? Give us a call: 866-263-2350.

## 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.**

### Tuesday, April 25, 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"/> | Trap Shooting and Fishing (no cost)         |
|                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ladies Shopping (no cost)                   |

### Wednesday, April 26, 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"/> | New Salem (\$5.00/person)                            |

## 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

# CAT



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**.



## 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!







Box 300  
Morton, IL 61550

*Join us at RHMA's  
Small-Town Pastors'  
Conference!*

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