

ANOMALY...Decidedly Different



2016 Small-Town Pastors' Conference

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

Featuring...



Scott M. Gibson

Haddon W. Robinson Professor of Preaching and Ministry, Director of the Th.M. Program in Preaching, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; served as a pastor and interim pastor in small-town churches; author, including *Preaching with a Plan: Sermon Strategies for Growing Mature Believers*



Joe Stowell

President, Cornerstone University; conference speaker; small-town pastor's son; member, RHMA Board of Reference; author, including *Redefining Leadership: Character-Driven Habits of Effective Leaders* and *Eternity: Reclaiming a Passion for What Endures*



Jeff VanGoethem

Senior Pastor, Scofield Church, Dallas; four town and country pastorates; former member of RHMA's Board of Directors; conference speaker; author, including *Living Together: A Guide to Counseling Unmarried Couples*

April 18-20
Morton, Illinois



**Rural Home
Missionary Association**



Anomaly

Decidedly Different



Ron Klassen

RHMA Executive Director

Okay, I admit it. We've had some fun with this year's theme. Picture a small-town pastor who is a little peculiar . . . you get my drift. Don't be surprised if we poke a little fun at ourselves at conference time as well.

Our byline helps us with our focus: "Decidedly Different." This speaks of intentionality. And it reminds us that our roles and places of ministry are different from urban and big church contexts – anomalous.

Being anomalous, don't be surprised if at this conference you glean approaches to ministry that are considerably different from what you might hear at other conferences.

Being anomalous, at this conference you will be encouraged to view your small town and church differently from how many in the Christian world view it – to see it as God sees it: *There are no little places.*

And, our theme provides opportunities for all of us, pastors and churches alike, to be challenged to be set apart – anomalous – in our small town, a light in a dark place.

Come expecting to interact with others about how we and our small-town ministries are anomalous. Come anticipating good fellowship . . . and fun with our theme!

For more information about RHMA,
go to www.rhma.org.

RHMA

Box 300, Morton, IL 61550

Call toll-free: 866-263-2350

info@rhma.org



Seminar Leaders



Bill Bagley, Jr.
Vice President, Frontier School of the Bible; former RHMA missionary pastor; son of a small-town pastor



Gloria Bagley
Wife of a small-town church planter in Utah; small-town pastor's daughter; frequent women's conference speaker



Gracia Burnham
Founder and Director, The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation; daughter of a small-town pastor; served with New Tribes Mission in the Philippines; hostage of rebels for 376 days; conference speaker; author, including *In the Presence of My Enemies*



Jim Carlson
President, Montana Bible College; co-pastor of rural Dry Creek Bible Church; trainer of rural pastors; former longtime small-town pastor; former Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Bible Mission



Marty Giese
Lead Pastor, Faithbridge Church, Park Rapids, Minnesota; grew up on a grain farm in western Minnesota; longtime small-town pastor; co-author of *Leading Through Change: Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*



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*



Brandon O'Brien
Assistant Professor of Christian Theology, Ouachita Baptist University; served two small-town church pastorates; author, including *The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, Effective*



Gary Roseboom
Associate Director, RHMA; worship leader, RHMA conferences; grew up in a farming community in upstate New York



Nolan Thomas
Program Director and professor for the Master of Arts in Counseling, Lincoln Christian University; longtime small-town pastor; professor, RHMA's TACT Program



Barney Wells
Graduate Academic Dean, Associate Professor of Bible and Ministry, Lincoln Christian University; consultant and professor, RHMA's 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)

Gloria Bagley

(Women)

Untouchable

Because we are covered with the armor of God, we are decidedly different – anomalous – and untouchable, unless we allow Satan to steal, kill, and destroy.

Jim Carlson

Pursuing Relevance with Weddings and Funerals

Officiating weddings and funerals is “just what small-town pastors *do*.” Given such a cultural expectation, we might find ourselves lapsing into carelessness or avoidance of what can be amazing opportunities for the gospel. Intentionality trumps mediocrity. This seminar helps us optimize the ministry hands we’re dealt.

Marty Giese

Understanding Your Ministry Context

This seminar will present an overview of the unique characteristics of rural and “rurban” (rural-urban blended contexts), tools for identifying the specific socio-cultural characteristics of your church and community, and direction for how to minister more effectively in your setting.

Ron Klassen

Maximizing the Strengths of the Town and Country Church

Picture a town and country 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 town and country church.



Brandon O'Brien

A Decidedly Different Reading of Church Growth in Acts

Some argue that the “numbers” passages in Acts are evidence that God expects our churches to always be growing numerically. This session will contend that the book of Acts establishes a different – and more encouraging – pattern in its repeated reminders that the early church continually grew in number.

Jeff VanGoethem

Ministering to Our Prodigals

We will take a practical look at the issue of prodigal loved ones (children and others), discussing how to cope with, minister to, pray for, and win them back. This seminar is for those who have prodigals and for those who minister to families with prodigals.

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 Bagley, Jr.

Resolving Conflict in the Rural Church

Sometimes we attempt to ignore conflict or try to run from it, because we know that trying to resolve conflict in the rural church presents a unique set of challenges. This seminar will seek to identify these challenges and embolden us to face the storm and resolve conflict in the right way.

Marty Giese

Raising Money, Discovering Talent, Managing Time, Mobilizing People

This seminar will identify some of the unique challenges of resourcing ministry in town and country settings and present some biblical strategies for developing the ministry resources God has provided for your church.

Seminars *(Continued)*

Brandon O'Brien

How Deep Is Your Bench? Equipping the Saints for Ministry

Disciples are called to make disciples who will make disciples. We will look at passages from both the Old and New Testaments to develop a strategy for intergenerational disciple-making in town and country churches that produces lay leaders equipped to do the work of ministry.

Nolan Thomas

Counseling in the Town and Country Context: Problems, Plans, and Places

Although issues like stress and anxiety, depression, suicide, ill-advised internet activities, and family dysfunction are not distinct to town and country settings, the setting provides a distinct influence on how the issue develops and is served. We will discuss issues like these, as well as preventative measures, and offer an overview of support services that may be available.

Wednesday Afternoon Seminars

(60 minutes/no a.m. seminars this year)

Bill Bagley, Jr.

Reversing Decline in the Rural Church

Where do you start when you find yourself pastoring a rural church in decline? How do you pinpoint the causes? There are reliable principles for rural restoration, no matter how perplexing your situation may be. This seminar is meant to help infuse you with hope that God can restore your ministry to a place of fruitfulness again.

Gracia Burnham

(Women)

God's Faithfulness in the Jungle...and Beyond

Do you know what Muslims believe? Gracia will pass on some of the things she learned about Islam during her captivity with the rebel group, Abu Sayyaf. She will also tell how God changed her during her time in the jungle. (Gracia will share the story of their captivity in a plenary session Wednesday morning.)



Jim Carlson

Power Brokers: Gatekeepers to the Lost

Jesus had a way of ministering directly to the “hurting lost.” As His representative body, we are to do likewise. However, in our town and country worlds, access to the hurting lost is often monitored by those in official positions of responsibility and authority. We are wise to learn to work with them for the sake of the gospel.

Scott M. Gibson

The Power of Clear Preaching

The key in preaching is clarity of the idea in the biblical text, the sermon, and its structure. This seminar will explore how preachers can do just that.

Gary Roseboom

Would Jesus Go to Mayberry?

You sometimes get the impression from the church-at-large that significant ministry can only take place in large population centers. It’s encouraging to know that Jesus set the example in reaching out to small towns and rural areas.

Jeff VanGoethem

Staying Encouraged in Pastoral Ministry

It’s hard to stay encouraged in pastoral work, and even more so in the small place. However, there are avenues of encouragement right where we are. Let’s explore ways to stay encouraged in our ministries.

Barney Wells

Nothing Stays the Same – Even in Small-Town America

Whether your community is growing or declining, change is taking place. We’ll explore the changes, challenges, and opportunities for ministry that growth presents. We’ll also examine the challenges and provide hope for those ministering in a declining town.

What others are saying...



"If you're a pastor in a small town or pastor in a small church and feel like no one really understands what's going on in your life, this conference is for you. The atmosphere is warm and contagious. The teaching is quality! The people are authentic, and God greatly strengthened my heart when I was there. I highly recommend the RHMA conference."

Chip Ingram

President and radio teacher, Living on the Edge; senior pastor, Venture Christian Church, Los Gatos, California; member, RHMA's Board of Reference



"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, Illinois; member, RHMA's Board of Reference; professor of practical theology, Westminster Theological Seminary; author, including "Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome"



"We want and need to be encouraged in ministry by those who understand our situations, have experienced our challenges, and share our joys. RHMA offers just such encouragement and training for small town and rural church leaders. The annual conference serves as a great opportunity to develop regular relationships with pastoral leaders in similar settings, and to receive training targeted for the special needs, concerns and opportunities of churches that are the backbone of North American Christianity."

Bryan Chapell

Senior Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, Illinois; conference speaker; author, including "Christ-Centered Worship"

Schedule

Monday, April 18

- 3:00-5:15 p.m. Registration at RHMA
310 E. Courtland, Morton
- 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
Storyteller: Brody Olson
Speaker: Joe Stowell
- 8:30 p.m. Dessert and Fellowship
Hosted by the RHMA Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 19

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen
- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session
Speaker: Joe Stowell
- 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
- 1:30-3:15 p.m. Seminars (90 minutes)
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 6:00-6:45 p.m. Bookstore open
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session
Storyteller: Brody Olson
Speaker: Scott M. Gibson

(Continued on next page)

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.

Schedule *(Continued)*

Wednesday, April 20

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen
- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session
Speaker: Scott M. Gibson
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:00-10:30 a.m. Bookstore open
- 10:30 a.m. Special Feature: *The Burnham Story*,
Gracia Burnham
- 11:30 p.m. Lunch / Options
Fellowship Hall: *Fellowship with
other pastors and wives*
Gym: *Get-to-Know-RHMA* presentation
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. Seminars (60 minutes)
- 2:00 p.m. Ladies' Tea with Gloria Bagley –
The Right Identity
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: Jeff VanGoethem



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 4:

Pastor ONLY:	\$100
Pastor & Wife:	\$130
Full-time Student:	\$40
Full-time Student & Wife:	\$70

After April 4: ADD \$20 to the total registration cost.

Registration includes lunches, suppers, and conference materials.

Registration costs are non-refundable after April 4.

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

LODGING

Special rates have been secured at the following hotels:

Holiday Inn Express and Suites Double/Single -
140 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$109.00
Phone: 309-263-4400 (special rates expire 3/19)

Best Western Ashland House
201 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$84.99 - \$89.99
Phone: 309-263-5116 (special rates expire 3/21)

Baymont Inn and Suites
210 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$79.99 - \$89.99
Phone: 309-266-8888 (special rates expire 3/18)

Quality Inn Double/King -
115 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$74.99 - \$84.99
Phone: 309-266-8310 (special rates expire 3/31)

Travelodge Double/King -
101 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$65.99 - \$70.00
Phone: 309-266-1600 (special rates expire 3/31)

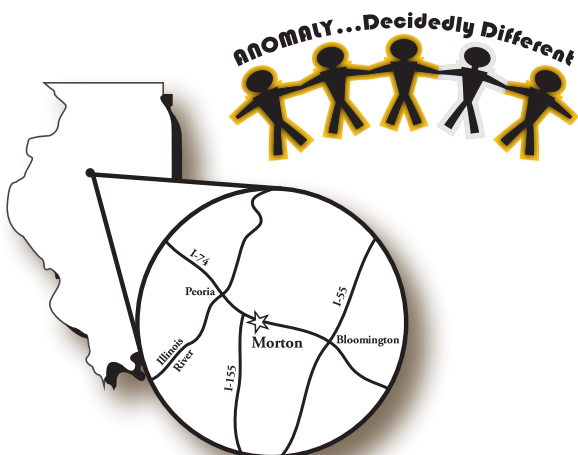
All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast.
The Holiday Inn, Best Western, and Baymont Inn have indoor pools. To make your reservation, please call the hotel of your choice. Mention RHMA to receive the reduced rate.

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

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 4: Check where appropriate

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

Full-time Student ☐ \$40 Full-time Student & Wife ☐ \$70

Registration cost _____

After April 4: Add \$20 to the total registration cost _____

Special Event 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"/> | Untouchable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pursuing Relevance with Weddings and Funerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Understanding Your Ministry Context |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maximizing the Strengths of the Town and Country Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A Decidedly Different Reading of Church Growth in Acts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministering to Our Prodigals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rural Ministry 101 |

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"/> | Resolving Conflict in the Rural Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Raising Money, Discovering Talent, Managing Time, Mobilizing People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | How Deep Is Your Bench? Equipping the Saints for Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Counseling in the Town and Country Context: Problems, Plans, and Places |

Wednesday Seminars

Choose ONE per person

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reversing Decline in the Rural Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | God's Faithfulness in the Jungle...and Beyond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Power Brokers: Gatekeepers to the Lost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Power of Clear Preaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Would Jesus Go to Mayberry? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Staying Encouraged in Pastoral Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nothing Stays the Same – Even in Small-Town America |

☐ 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) and pay there with a credit card or from your bank account.

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

Activities Tuesday afternoon

In addition to seminars, the following activities are options for Tuesday 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 19 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 Visitors Center (\$5.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Funk's Grove (\$5.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Golf Outing (fee to be determined) |
| | <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"/> | Bass Pro Shops (no cost) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ronald Reagan Museum at Eureka College (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/person and is **IN ADDITION** to your conference registration fee. Advanced tickets for the tour are required. Therefore no refund will be given.

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.



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



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.**

Funk Prairie Home and Gem & Mineral Museum

(Limited to 30 people)

Lafayette Funk was a founder of the Chicago Union Stockyards and director of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. His family had one of the largest farms in America and created the first commercial hybrid corn. His grandson traveled extensively for the Funk Brothers Seed Co. and collected gems and minerals from around the world. The farm was electrified in 1910 (first in the world) and the 13-room home, built in 1864, has been extensively restored to its original condition. The museum houses more than 4,000 specimens, from gemstones of every type to an intact saber-toothed tiger skull! **The cost of the bus trip is \$5.00/person.**



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.

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

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.



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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