

4. **Settle on a method** – Exactly what will the structure of your preaching point look like? Will you have monthly prayer meetings, biweekly Bible studies, weekly services, or something altogether different? Start out with a consistent method. If, in time, you feel the need to pivot to some other format, do not be hesitant to do so. But in whatever method you choose, be faithful. Avoid fads. Don't get caught up in the gimmicks that are used in modern *church growth*. If we want to have a move of God in our meetings that brings about conviction leading to conversion, why would we employ the techniques and tactics of those who we have already settled to be doctrinally unsound and spiritually void?
5. **Invest time, solicit help, and promote** – A preaching point will not grow without work. How much easier it is to catch fish if you begin baiting the area you desire to eventually cast your line? Spend time in the community, visiting businesses and homes as possible. A local Church should be willing to send laborers to a community to help the preaching point leader both in their promotion of and attendance at the meetings. Business cards and printed promotional materials should be distributed in the community. Small local businesses often have community bulletin boards. Online printers are often the most affordable options. You may even find local printers willing to give a discount to a Church effort. The ACJC National Home Missions Department will gladly help with graphic design for cards, fliers, and other outreach materials for preaching points led by qualified ACJC licensed ministers.

The ACJC National Home Missions Department prays you will sincerely consider that **YOU CAN** start a preaching point. This is not a work only for large Churches with economic means. It is the original Apostolic work of the Church as they, with little resource beyond their own time and energy, turned the world upside down going house to house ministering to a few here and there. We are here to help. Please contact us if you would like more information on how to start a preaching point in a community near you.



Letting Our Vision Expand

A Guide to Starting PREACHING POINTS

The Biblical Case for Preaching Points

Did you know the majority of the U.S. population lives at least 30 miles from a Truth preaching Church? Even in areas where there seems to be a *church on every corner*, the need exists for the local Church to catch what we could call a Judea Vision. In Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8, we are told that the Holy Ghost would empower the disciples to take the Gospel to Jerusalem (local), Judea (the surrounding area), Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth (foreign). A Judea Vision is lost in our day in favor of a focus on the local Church and foreign missions. Meanwhile, *millions of souls* die lost in Judea – the region around our local Jerusalem.

Lest we forget, it was never God's will for the concentration of ministry and resource in Jerusalem. The Church was pushed out of their nest, so to speak, by persecution for failure to lift their wings and fly by the Spirit's call to evangelism. Must the American Church need similar motivation?

What is a Preaching Point?

Starting a preaching point is similar to going on a fishing trip. The goal is to catch fish where they are rather than waiting for them to come to you. You will sometimes hear terms like *cell group*, *house church*, *daughter work* or *church plant*. A preaching point shares similarities to these but has some distinct differences. The object of a preaching point is to bring the Gospel to an unreached or underreached area with the purpose of making converts whether a new Church is established or not, though this is certainly a desired outcome. This can be accomplished in several different ways. Consider these differing methods which have already been used:

1. **Home study groups** – This is a meeting held in a home at a set time and day (normally not a Sunday) every two weeks. They begin by receiving prayer requests and taking time for unified prayer.

This is followed by singing a few songs (usually using hymnals or preprinted pages with the lyrics). Then, a Bible study is taught. In total, the meeting lasts about an hour.

2. **A worship service** – This looks more like a *traditional* Church service but is not necessarily held in a dedicated church building. A community center or other facility is most often used. This meeting is held at a set time and day (normally a Sunday) every two weeks. Prayers are made, songs are sung, and either a Bible study is taught or a sermon is preached. Offerings are not received.
3. **Prayer meetings** – A location is found where a prayer meeting can be held at least once per month on a set day and time. From these meetings connections can be made for home Bible studies.

In each situation the purpose of the meeting is to **reach lost souls**. If that turns into a new Church plant, that is wonderful! If it turns into a soul being attached to an established Church for further discipleship, that is just as wonderful. The point is this: there are too many locations throughout the United States without a witness and **Almighty God** has given us His Spirit to do the job. We should look for ways to say **YES** to the Home Mission in our own Judea.

Establishing a Preaching Point

Once you are convinced of the necessity of the mission, actually getting started is the next step. It can be much easier than you think.

3. **Determine a target community** – This should be made a matter of prayer. However, the answer to *where* we should start preaching points has already been answered for us in Scripture. There is no location one can find on a map that doesn't need a witness! Seriously consider communities that are unreached (no established Church in or near the town) or underreached (insufficient established Churches considering population). If you already have a contact in that community, all the better. Perhaps a Saint in your Church already lives in a community without a Church. Their home might be the perfect place to start.

1. **Accept a short-term commitment** – One beauty of a preaching point is that you are not necessarily making a lifetime commitment to a community. You are fishing until such a time as it is evident that the time has come to move the boat. You do not have to uproot your family, find a new home, and get a new job right away. A minimum six-month commitment is recommended. Once you have made the commitment, do not compromise it. Be as faithful to the preaching point as you would expect God to be to you. Such faithfulness is rewarded by the Lord.
2. **Find a meeting place** – Yet another advantage to the preaching point concept is the minimal financial investment required in regard to a meeting place. Believe it or not, the myth concerning Church buildings is just that – a myth. A building that looks like a *traditional* Church is not required for someone to attend a preaching point meeting. It is often our own ego that demands such *luxury*. Many, if not most, small communities around the country have community centers or other meeting places that can often be used for free or for a very small cost. A quick phone survey in late 2023 of communities across three States found the average cost of these facilities to be \$25 per hour, meaning a meeting place for preaching point could cost as little as \$50-\$75 per month. Online community groups can be great places to find possible locations.

The home of an existing convert (as mentioned in point 1) is a good option. There are also many small denominational facilities that are infrequently used as rural congregations decrease or are simply abandoned by their denomination. Many of these (especially those of the more *liberal* denominations such as the United Methodists, United Church of Christ, etc.) will allow their facility to be used for a nominal fee just to help with the upkeep of the building.

Think outside of the box. Be willing to use what you're tempted to refuse. Though often thought otherwise, finding a place is actually one of the easiest steps when approached with humility.