



WHY HOME CHURCHING?

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5 REASONS

1 HOME CHURCHES ARE RELATIONAL BY DESIGN. They have a family spirit. The informality of a home makes discovery and inquiry very natural. Informal, yet intentional. Relaxed, yet real.

At Pathfinders we meet in a living room, a student lounge, or a backyard patio. We share over coffee and snacks, and sometimes over a meal or during fun nights.

2 HOME CHURCHING IS BECOMING A HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE TO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHING. Something old has become something new, again.

Would you like to discover home churching?

3 Home churching brings all the strengths of 'small group' ministry to bear on a small fellowship of 15-25 people.

Pathfinders Fellowships meet at a predetermined time during the week. **WE MAINTAIN THAT . . .**

- The love of God is best shown when there are seekers present
- Believers grow their roots deep in the Lord when they are missionally involved with unbelievers.

4 HOME CHURCHING BRINGS OUT THE HOSPITALITY, TALENTS AND SERVING GIFTS OF ALL INVOLVED.

Everyone serves! Our desire is to see the leadership gifts of Ephesians 4:11-12 in place or in process in each fellowship.

5 HOME CHURCHES CAN OPERATE 'CLOSE TO THE ACTION.'

A fellowship can be started in an apartment, a dorm room, a living room, large or small. It can be built with families in a neighbourhood, among an ethnic people group, students or street people. The key is called, motivated, equipped hosts who can 'set the table' for the seekers and saints alike.

HISTORICAL FACTS
ABOUT HOME CHURCHES

- ➡ The church was birthed in the upper room of a home by Jesus and the disciples.
- ➡ The first century church was primarily a movement of house churches, the 'oikos.'
- ➡ The early generation of Christians met in homes, usually in the largest room that would house 15-20 people. Once the number increased, a second house church was established nearby for the sole purpose of helping people stay focussed on the purpose of their gathering.
- ➡ House Churches have stood the test of time during the New Testament era up until Constantine. The body of Christ - the church - survived the centuries of the Dark Ages in the congregational church because of the house church - where fellowship never died and the flame of faith was kept alive.
- ➡ In 1670 Germany, Christians began meeting twice a week for individual encouragement which soon led to Bible discussion groups.
- ➡ John Wesley planted numerous cells throughout England. "Methodism" became an alternative to the "high church."
- ➡ The early Brethren movement was a movement of house churches.
- ➡ Although under different names, house churches have functioned as a kind of spiritual conservatory over the centuries.
- ➡ Millions of Chinese have been reached through house churches in the 20th century.



WHY HOME CHURCHING?

**MAY WE INTRODUCE
OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

➔ **DAVID MACLEOD**

Former President of Compassion Canada and Executive Director of The Gideons. Dave brings a heart for the Scriptures and practical love to his life mission. Dave and Lyla are part of a London Pathfinders Fellowship.

➔ **BARB HAYCRAFT**

Dean of Student Life at Tyndale Seminary, Toronto. Barb is vitally involved in the equipping of young adults for the Great Commission and brings a heart for the US, her home, and a vision for the world.

➔ **RAY KLASSEN**

Incumbent Pastor of LaSalle Community Church, Manitoba, which he planted in the mid 1990s. Outgoing Director of Church Planting for Mennonite Brethren in Manitoba. Ray and Chris are passionate about neighbourhood impact.

➔ **OUR COUNCIL OF REFERENCE**

A body of believers across North America provides input and counsel to the direction of Pathfinders Fellowships.

➔ **OUR FIELD LEADERSHIP**

Ross and Sandy Rainsbring a practical approach to discipleship and leadership stemming from 26 years involvement with The Navigators of Canada including 13 years as President. They are convinced that lay-led fellowships are ripe for Canada and bring ten years of experience as practitioners in home churching which they love to share with others. Their goal is to develop a network of home church hosts and part-time mobile leaders to visit and encourage these churches.

**PATHFINDERS FELLOWSHIPS
AN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSE CHURCHES
DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE:**

SEEKING



PEOPLE DESIRING TO UNDERSTAND ...
DOES GOD EXIST? CAN WE KNOW GOD?
WHO IS JESUS?

PARTICIPATING



THOSE WHO ARE MOTIVATED TO
GROW IN THEIR WALK WITH GOD, TO
REACH OUT AND DISCIPLE OTHERS.

HOSTING



FOR THOSE WHO CAN HOST A HOME
FELLOWSHIP AND BE PART OF A
NETWORK OF PRACTITIONERS.

YOUR LOCAL HOST: