At a previous church I attended, we planned a rather large “fall festival” for our children in place of the traditional Halloween Carnival provided at local schools. We were fortunate enough to be able to acquire access at a reasonable price to a number of rides and other activities that would appeal to children. At our planning meeting, I emphasized the importance of promoting the event by all available means throughout the community. I never will forget the response of one of the ladies on the planning committee. She said, “If we invite everyone in the community to come and they bring their children, our children will not have enough time on the equipment and at the games.”

Her reply broke my heart because it totally missed the point for our very existence as a church. As important as love for each other and ministry to each other are, we are not here to simply exchange “warm fuzzies” and to feather our own nest. We are here to assist in the greatest endeavor of all time. We are partners with God in the building of His Kingdom.

I thank God that you understand that responsibility and that you are open to fulfilling it. This is evident by things like the Block Party, the choir musical specials presented for the community, Christmas floats, the inclusion of the community in our “Forty Days of Purpose Campaign”, our Disaster Relief ministry, our support for missions through our giving and many other expressions of concern for our community, state, nation and world.

Mark Young at our Ministry Fair highlighted this understanding. Because of his work, he and Diane have lived in many different places and have belonged to many different churches. He commented that they were so happy to be a part of a church that looked beyond its own walls and ministered to the community. I could not have asked for a better compliment.

You have heard me say often, “If we will be faithful to do our part in the building of His Kingdom, He will build our church.” As we commit to the building of God’s Kingdom, it is important that we not become complacent and that we remember that God’s reward for faithfulness is greater service. Our faithfulness of the past will give us greater opportunities in the future. This is why we are hosting the Empowering Kingdom Growth Conference October 13 thru 16. It is to help us remain focused. Listed below is a schedule for the conference.
Schedule

Thursday, October 13
7:00 PM
Rev. Roosevelt Morris, head of the Office of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, will bring a message on prayer.

Friday, October 14
7:00 PM
Dr. Tony Beam, former pastor and present head of the Christian World View Center at North Greenville College will bring a message on the importance of a Christian World View.

Saturday, October 15
7:00 PM
Dr. Jeff Lethco, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Greenwood will bring a message on our call to be involved in Global Missions.

Sunday, October 16
11:00 AM
Dr. Ken Hemphill, head of the Empowering Kingdom Growth Emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention will be with us on Sunday morning.

We will be inviting the other churches in our area to join us for this important time of reflection upon our responsibilities as the Church. Begin now to pray that God will use this time to broaden our focus and the focus of all who will attend. Pray for our choir as they prepare special music for each evening. Pray that God will remove all the obstacles in your way and that you will be with us for each meeting.