

WHY DO WE EXIST?

On a recent trip to Mexico, I noticed framed signs hanging at different spots in this congregations building, parsonage and bathroom. It asked Why does this church exist? Certainly that is a basic question for all to answer. We know that often government agencies have to prove every year their allocations are needed and they need to continue to exist. Maybe we should likewise examine all our congregations. What was the answer on those posters?

This church exists to *Celebrate the Presence of God, Communicate the Word of God, Equip the Saints of God, Demonstrate the Love of God, and Win other souls to God.* That surely sums it all up. We celebrate God's presence as we worship, praise him and honor the presence of his Son in salvation around the table. We have no other book but the Bible to proclaim. We are charged to make every member a worker using their talents for the Lord. We demonstrate God's love through our benevolent outreach and care for each other and those outside our group as well. And, we have been commissioned as a church to win other souls to the kingdom. In a society today that seems to have forgotten or doesn't understand the real purpose of the church, it truly is a formidable task to keep the church on the right course to fulfilling its true purpose and reason for existing.