

Looking Back on the Year 2011

The Karns Family goals for the year 2011 are listed on page six in the Vision 2011. These seven goals represent our hope and aspiration for the Karns congregation during the year. But, without the support of the Karns members, deacons, and ministers they are, and will be, simply words. As we embark on this year's journey, let's envision what the results of these plans could look like at the end of the year 2011, if we all worked together and the Lord blessed our collective effort. Here is what our faithful service to the Lord in 2011 could be.

1. Growing Deeper. The average attendance at the Sunday PM and Wednesday Bible study is close to the attendance at the Sunday AM service. Bible class attendance increased significantly and there was an increase in the spiritual and social interactions between members and families.
2. Working Together. Meaningful and needed jobs were defined by the deacons, elders and others and individuals and families accepted the responsibility to fill them. More people were actively participating in the work of the congregation than ever before in our history.
3. Reaching Out. The Knox county government approved construction of the Church of Christ digital sign. The Karns community became aware of the activities and teaching of the Karns church through Biblical messages regularly shown on the sign for people to see while traveling on the Oak Ridge Highway. More Karns members are telling others about the Lord's work at Karns.
4. Lifting Higher. Along with the increased involvement by the members and increased attendance, the weekly contribution exceeded the budget for 2011.
5. Gaining Strength. The weekly attendance for the three services increased by a combination of conversions, people moving into our area, and more faithfulness of the current members. The average Sunday AM service attendance approached 400.
6. Planning Future. Using the attendance figures during the year, preliminary meetings were held to plan for going forth with the building expansion.
7. Helping Others. Twenty-six members of the Karns congregation went to Honduras in June and constructed a basic building for the members of the Lord's church in Ville De San Francisco. Twenty people were baptized and/or restored in the evangelistic effort and many more were helped by the medical mission. The enthusiasm generated by the Honduras mission had a positive effect on the local mission efforts.

Planning and goal-setting is a needful part of the Lord's work at Karns. To be blessed by God, we must be *doers of the word, not hearers only* (James 1:22). Furthermore, James says *I will show you my faith by my works* (James 2:18b). Thank you God, for blessing us!

For the elders,
Don Denton