

# Moving Forward

By Justin Morton

Looking back on 2014, we have so much to be thankful for as a congregation. We have grown, both spiritually and numerically. We prayerfully purchased the property across the street for future expansion and began working as mentors in the Karns Elementary School. We are heavily involved in mission work, both foreign and domestic, and have various ministries bearing much good fruit within our community.

It would be easy to stop and look at all the good things going on here at Karns and think we have somehow reached the pinnacle of all there is for us to accomplish. Don't get me wrong, we should be proud of the good works going on here at Karns. After all, they are all a part of our overarching mission of impacting the world for Christ. However, if we feel like we have arrived, we need to think again.

The truth is there always will be someone in our presence who doesn't know of Jesus and His amazing gift of salvation. There always will be people who gather within our midst to worship who are not actively involved in the local work. There always will be someone we know who needs us to lend a helping hand. There always will be someone else.

Our charge as followers of Jesus is to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." We should shine in such a way as to cause others to take notice and give glory to our Father, who is in heaven (Matt. 5:13-16). You and I should be living our lives conscientiously looking for opportunities to expand the borders of God's Kingdom by the service we can contribute.

My prayer for the Karns congregation is that we look back on 2014 as a year of spreading God's love and His Word. I also pray that we move forward and bear even more fruit in the New Year. May we all anxiously welcome 2015 with its endless possibilities for growing God's kingdom.