

Love Never Fails

It has been a little over a year since I became an elder for the Karns Church of Christ. I did not think it possible, but I love this congregation even more now that I have seen “behind the curtain.” There are many reasons for this but a few are quite obvious. The most obvious is that we are a loving congregation.

First, we love one another. In John 13:35, Jesus said, “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Our love for one another is evident daily. The concern we show in sending cards, calling, visiting, making meals for each other shows this love. The comfort and care we provide to our church family in times of trouble or need are remarkable. Sure we have our squabbles, but we love one another just the same. It really does show.

Next, we love our neighbors (Matthew 22:39). The things we do for our neighbors in Karns, Knoxville, throughout Tennessee and the world are making a difference. The school mentoring program with the Karns Primary School shows our love to some needy children and to the staff of the school. Our support of the Prison Ministry, Tennessee Children’s Home East Campus, and other local efforts show our love for our greater community and state. Our many mission trips to foreign countries and the support we provide to missionaries show our love for our neighbors throughout the world.

Finally, we love God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind (Matthew 22:37). This is the greatest commandment that Jesus clarified for us. Everything we do should be because we love God. I truly feel that we thrive as a congregation because we love God. I see and hear examples of our love for God daily. We do things for others not because we expect an earthly reward, but because our love for God demands it.

Please understand that I am not trying to brag about our works. It is not about the works we do, or the programs we support, or the actions we take. It is about our love for one another, our neighbors, and most importantly, for God. Love never fails (1 Cor. 13:8).

For the elders,
Tony Turner