

# Young People are Important!

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*But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).*

Young people should be welcomed, not just accommodated. Here at Karns I hope our youth understand and sense that we very much want them here and enjoy them being a vital part of the work. Our youth does so much for our congregation, and they provide a very positive influence in our community. I truly enjoy all the opportunities afforded me to be around our young folks and interact with them.

As I write this article, Sherrye and I are finalizing our preparations and my lesson to be delivered at the first annual Ministering to Youth Conference (M2Y). This event, located in Orlando, began Thursday and ends on Sunday of this article publication. The conference, where I serve on the board, is designed to biblically equip those who serve our youth. It is for preachers, youth ministers, parents, volunteers, and elders. I will be speaking on "Elders' Responsibility to Youth" as part of the elders' track of lessons. Justin and Miranda Morton and Chris Pegg are also planning to be in attendance.

I am thankful for our youth for providing me with the many examples and stories that I intend to share with my class at the conference. Some people like to refer to our youth as tomorrow's church, but I firmly believe that Today's youth IS Today's church.

*Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4:12).*

For the elders,  
Gregg Woodall