

Presence

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A Generation for the Cultural Mission

Covering Our Young People with Prayers

Strengthening the next generation's faith in God has always been the cornerstone of Presence's establishment and development. Our mission is to bring our youth back to God in a society that is becoming increasingly more individualistic. In the past, Presence was often perceived as an organization serving families and intergenerational ministries. While Presence does focus on building up families and intergenerational relationships, we also recognize the needs of young people and those of their families. Our commitment to family ministry has always been with the end goal of raising up our youth.

Difficulties of Youth Ministry

For many years, Presence has faithfully hosted Faith Seminars for young believers as a way of encouraging them to reflect on and live out their faith. Unfortunately, the number

of young people in many small- and mid-sized Chinese churches has been declining in recent years. In some churches, there is a lack of youth fellowships to participate in our Faith Seminars. This is saddening and concerning reality. For churches that continue to maintain youth ministry, the frontline youth workers or parents have shared with us their experience with intergenerational conflicts caused by cultural and expectational differences:

1. Differences in Roles and Expectations

Due to natural language and cultural barriers, some first-generation immigrant parents feel helpless when they teach and discipline their children. As a result, they hope to pass on the responsibility of teaching their children to youth workers. Some parents lack clear expectations



Dr. Agnes Ip

regarding youth ministry; they simply regard youth ministry as a place for child care services that would allow them to participate in their own adult fellowship gatherings. On the other hand, most youth workers see themselves playing the role of spiritual leaders, instead of the youths' parents. They see themselves as big brothers and sisters who are there to encourage the youth in pursuing God,



rather than someone who is responsible for disciplining the youth. Some Christian parents prioritize academic achievements over their children's spiritual lives. Many youth workers feel discouraged when parents have their children reduce church activities to focus on schoolwork.

2. Barriers to Mutual Trust

Because of the aforementioned differences, there is a lack of mutual understanding between youth workers and parents. Sometimes, parents are needed to help serve in youth ministry due to a lack of young adult volunteers. Youth workers in leadership positions are mainly American-born or American-raised. Some of them may lack confidence and may not feel respected when they work with older adult volunteers because of the hierarchy from age that exists within Asian cultures. Some parents have concerns about their church's youth workers who lack sufficient life experience. These two parties may have different ideologies and direction when it comes to guiding the youth. This creates a lack of mutual trust and cooperation among team members.

Finding a Way Out of Difficulties

We have seen churches trying to find a way out of these difficulties and conflicts. Recently, we visited a church where parents are the core team serving in youth ministry (please see the next article for details). As

a result, parents are serving in the role of spiritual mentors to their children. Some churches integrate youth ministry into the larger context of family ministry. Some churches promote a younger pastor to take over the position of senior pastor when the current one retires. While we believe that these attempts may be challenging, we are grateful that these churches do not regard youth ministry as an independent part of the church. Shepherding young people, the entire family, and all ministries cannot be independently achieved because we are all part of the larger family of God and body of Christ.

Standing Firm in Building and Strengthening Families

In 2019, Presence continues to serve churches, communities and families. We collaborate with churches to provide training in the areas of parenting, cultural communication, mental well-being, and spiritual development. We also include online trainings in the form of blogs, video content and online courses.

Presence recently launched the "Presence Life Planning Curriculum," which has been in development since 2017. This spiritual education curriculum is designed to address different needs and nurture holistic growth in adults and young people. We will further provide trainings to churches in this area by providing materials for Sunday schools and fellowships later this year.

Prayer and Hope

In 2017, we also launched a campaign for parents to pray for their children. We have compiled the prayers and discussion points into a booklet for fellowships, for groups and individual use. It can be downloaded for free at <https://presencequotient.org/zh-hant/store/>. (Currently, only the Chinese version is available. The English version will be released later this year.)

This year, we look forward to expanding our prayers for our own children to the entire young generation, including churches' youth ministries and youth workers. Young people are also encouraged to pray for their parents as a way to practice serving across generations.

Praying for the younger generation is still Presence's current and future focus. Although there are many challenges when it comes to nurturing young people, we are confident that there is hope in the Lord. We invite you to pray with us for current and future generations and trust in the Lord that all things are possible through Christ.



Serving the Young Generation

Pray. Share. Support

Date : 4/27/2019

Time: 9:30am-12pm (light breakfast will be served)

Place: 17181 Gale Ave. Unit C, City of Industry, CA 91745

Language: English

RSVP LINK: <https://app.donorview.com/855J>

Inquiry: 626-810-5200 info@renetheresponse.org

A platform for anyone who has a heart for the youth ministry to come, encourage and build up each other through prayer. A few youth ministers will share their struggles and successes with serving their youths.



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RE:NEW a Presence movement is an initiative of Presence Quotient®, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit-organization based on Christian and family values.



The Making of Presence Life Planning Curriculum



Case Study: An Effective Youth Ministry Model

Presence Editors

Youth ministry is a vital part of building up the faith of the next generation. However, it is often a puzzle piece to many churches when more and more youth drop out of church. In this article, we will explore Church A, which has found a way to steadily grow its youth ministry in recent years in the midst of challenges. Through interviews, this church's youth workers and youth have shared their journeys with us, respectively.

From the Youth Workers' Point of View

The current youth workers at Church A are parents of the youth. They never delved into any youth ministry models, nor have they ever served in youth ministry in the past. As the English congregation of the church is in the growing phase, there are not enough native parents or young adults to serve in youth ministry. Although the development of youth ministry was not as good as expected, these parents successfully invited other bilingual parents to join the ministry team to become mentors to the youth. Now, more than ten parents are serving together. The youth workers view their current model not only as a way to solve the problem of manpower but also as an opportunity to encourage parents to shepherd their children. They position their youth ministry as: 1) focusing on the Bible - helping children learn the Bible and build a solid faith foundation before college; 2) equipping the youth to become spiritual leaders and connecting youth to the rest of the church.

The advantage of this model is that it has drawn parents and children closer together. As parents study the Bible alongside their

children, genuine communication and spiritual connection between the two generations is becoming enhanced. Children's ministries and youth ministries are more than just childcare services; they train parents to become life mentors to their children by guiding their spiritual growth. Additionally, parental participation tends to be more stable than that of ministry workers who are hired on by the church.

There are limitations, however, to having parents serving as youth workers. Some parents are unwilling to get involved because of language barriers, as is common in Chinese churches, or other concerns. This results in a shortage of manpower. Some youth workers feel that the age and cultural gaps existing between middle-age immigrant parents and youth create far too great of a challenge and that it would be more ideal for native-born Chinese parents and young adults to serve instead. Yet some youth workers believe that Christ-like love and mutual trust are the most important when it comes to connecting with kids; in such a case, language, culture, and age will not be barriers.

Youth Ministry from the Eyes of the Youth

Three high schoolers from Church A also shared their viewpoints on youth ministry. Having grown up in Church A, these individuals experienced the many changes in their youth ministry. They all agreed there were certain pros to the current model of having middle-aged parents serve as youth workers. As

adults with more life experience and maturity, they provide the framework of the weekly fellowships, stability, and assistance to new immigrant students who are struggling with English.

On the other hand, these high schoolers do look forward to having college students or young adults serve as their mentors, because: 1) they want to prepare themselves for the next life stage from "big brothers" and "big sisters" who can mentor them in choosing college majors and careers; 2) some things, such as interest in the opposite sex and dating issues, may be more difficult to share with their own parents or their friends' parents.

Overall, these three youngsters are grateful for the youth workers' labor of love, and the parent volunteers have played an important role of being life mentors to these youths. One youth shared that a mentor had invited him to read the Bible together, which greatly helped his spiritual growth. The high schoolers also mentioned how their mentors have encouraged and equipped them to serve together.

Future Plans of Youth Ministry

In the near future, Church A is planning to strengthen high schoolers' preparation and transition to college by giving 12th graders the opportunity to attend young adult fellowships, so that older, more mature Christians can walk spiritually alongside the soon-to-be high school

graduates. The church will also invite college graduates to help mentor the youth with the hope of raising a new generation of youth workers. At the same time, the church hopes to partner with organizations like Presence in order to provide parenting education and training in the areas of relationships and communication between generations. This way, they can continue to build upon their model of intergenerational service.

Presence is Here to Help: Dr. Agnes Ip

As you can see from the illustration provided with Church A's youth ministry model, there is power in the idea of "life influencing life." A few mature Christian parents taught and led other parents to serve, helping them overcome language and cultural barriers along the way.

Together, they shepherd the youth and serve as mentors and spiritual fathers, accompanying the youth to read the Bible and help them grow spiritually. This is especially valuable in a society where fathers are often absent. In the past, youth ministry was mostly an independent department in the church, separated from family ministry. Church A's model combines family and youth ministries together as a result of active participation by parents, and both generations are growing together. This is definitely a good direction for raising the next generation of disciples.

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Bridging the Cultural and Generational Divide:

Presence's 15th Anniversary Event - Recap and Reflections

Lily Ma

September 16, 2018 (Presence's 15th Anniversary Event date) was a joyous day that we had been eagerly awaiting. For the past decade and a half, Presence has committed itself to supporting families as they live out and deepen their faith. As a Presence employee and member of the organizing committee for its anniversary dinner, I was grateful and touched when I watched our 342 guests walk into the venue. Among them were old friends and new acquaintances, most of whom have supported our intergenerational cultural ministries through financial generosity and wholehearted volunteering in different capacities. I could feel their love for Presence, and the photobooth at the venue helped to create wonderful memories of this milestone.

A skit performed by Presence staff kicked off the program, followed by Dr. Agnes Ip's speech. Dr. Ip laid out how different expectations and parents' desire for their children's success might cause tension between generations. It is Presence's longstanding commitment to help these two generations understand and manage such differences in living out their faith and to resolve communication and relational challenges. Dr. Edward Chow of Chinese Baptist Church of Orange County shared that Presence helped in this regard, explaining in his testimony that our ministries enabled

him to understand his own needs and those of his family, so that they could improve the way they interact and foster growth in their relationships. Reverend Morson Chiu, General Secretary of Greater Los Angeles Chinese Ministerial Association, also shared at the event, affirming Presence's direction and reiterating the importance of collaborating and strategizing with local churches in order to keep a finger on the pulse of this era. We are grateful to Reverend Chiu for not only making the time to attend Presence's 15th Anniversary Thanksgiving Dinner despite his busy schedule, but also giving us profound encouragement. We are truly blessed by his vision and sincere, meaningful reminder.

Throughout these 15 years, we have experienced so many powerful miracles of God. He led us through challenge after challenge and guided us through identifying the needs of families nowadays, one step at a time. The anniversary dinner ended with Mrs. Cindy Tong's beautiful rendition of the praise song "My Tribute," which represents our endless gratitude for God's grace to us and our desire that all glory be given to Him. Through faith and the grace of God, Presence will further the cultural mission that He calls us to and continue doing this work for years to come.



RE:NEW Faith Seminar - 2019 Highlights

The Importance of Evangelism

Maggie Hui

In this millennial age when things are rapidly changing, how can Christians reach out to the lost and keep God's mission alive? During the 2019 RE:NEW Faith Seminar, held on February 1, Pastor Kyle Shimazaki from Seeds of Life Church answered this question while delving into the topic of the "Importance of Evangelism."

Pastor Kyle shared that no matter which generation we are in, God's mandate for Christians - to preach the Gospel - continues to stand, and the Gospel message remains unchanged and has the power to save. The Gospel continues to have relevance today, and young people should respond as Paul did in Romans 1:16: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God who brings salvation to everyone who believes..."

Pastor Kyle pointed out that the most important thing in evangelism is relying on the Holy Spirit by praying and listening to what the Lord has to say. From hearing Pastor's Kyle's personal testimonies, we learned how the Holy Spirit has guided him in proclaiming the Gospel among friends and strangers and how God has worked amazingly in his life! Pastor Kyle went on to share that young people today, namely millennials, are looking for authenticity, and that being missional Christians means our lives ought to reflect Jesus.

The Gospel message was clearly interwoven throughout Pastor Kyle's entire sharing, and as he concluded his time with an altar call, several people responded by raising their hands to accept Jesus as their Savior. One brave girl even publicly came up to the altar to accept this call. To God be all the Glory!

In addition to Pastor Kyle's relatable and convicting message, the attendees - over 130 in total from 13 different churches - were blessed by the opening and closing worship, led by The Worship Team, as well as a fun ice-breaking game, boba milk tea, snacks, and fellowship among old and new friends. A special thanks goes to all of our volunteers, The Worship Team, and to Chinese Evangelical Free Church for providing the venue and snacks this year.

In Pastor Kyle's own words, "Evangelism is a natural byproduct of a deepening, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ." It is RE:NEW's prayer that our youth will grow in their relationship with Jesus, and we will continue our mission to help young people strengthen their faith by continuing to provide resources like the Faith Seminar. We are looking forward to seeing the next generation rise up and God's Kingdom grow!



Presence Possibilities Ministry Update - Career Interview Series

Jennifer Wong

As of 2019, Presence Possibilities is now in its sixth year! Many young people today struggle with choosing their college majors and career paths. Presence Possibilities was founded six years ago with the goal of helping young people discover their direction and purpose.

We believe the Creator God has given each individual unique talents and personalities as well as potential waiting to be discovered and developed. Through Presence Possibilities, we offer professional assessment and consultation services in two main areas: 1) Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences Assessment for elementary through middle-school students along with their parents; 2) College Major and Career Exploration for high schoolers and those looking to change their careers. So far, we have achieved a significant number of positive results and evaluations.

In recent years, Presence Possibilities has launched a Career Interview series and made the interview videos available online. We hope, through hearing about the interviewees' personal experience, our viewers would have a better understanding of the skills, requirements, real life work situations, difficulties, and challenges of various industries, and learn to overcome these obstacles in order to reach their career goals.

From these interviews, you will discover that while some interviewees enter into career fields that match their college majors upon graduation, others learn to integrate their interests, personalities, knowledge, lifestyles, etc. to create their own unique professions.

We hope that, so far, Dana's and Sandi's interviews would help motivate you to pursue your passions and dreams!

Curious to know about what kind of jobs and careers are out there that may fit your skills?

How about the importance of how personality factors into a person's career success?

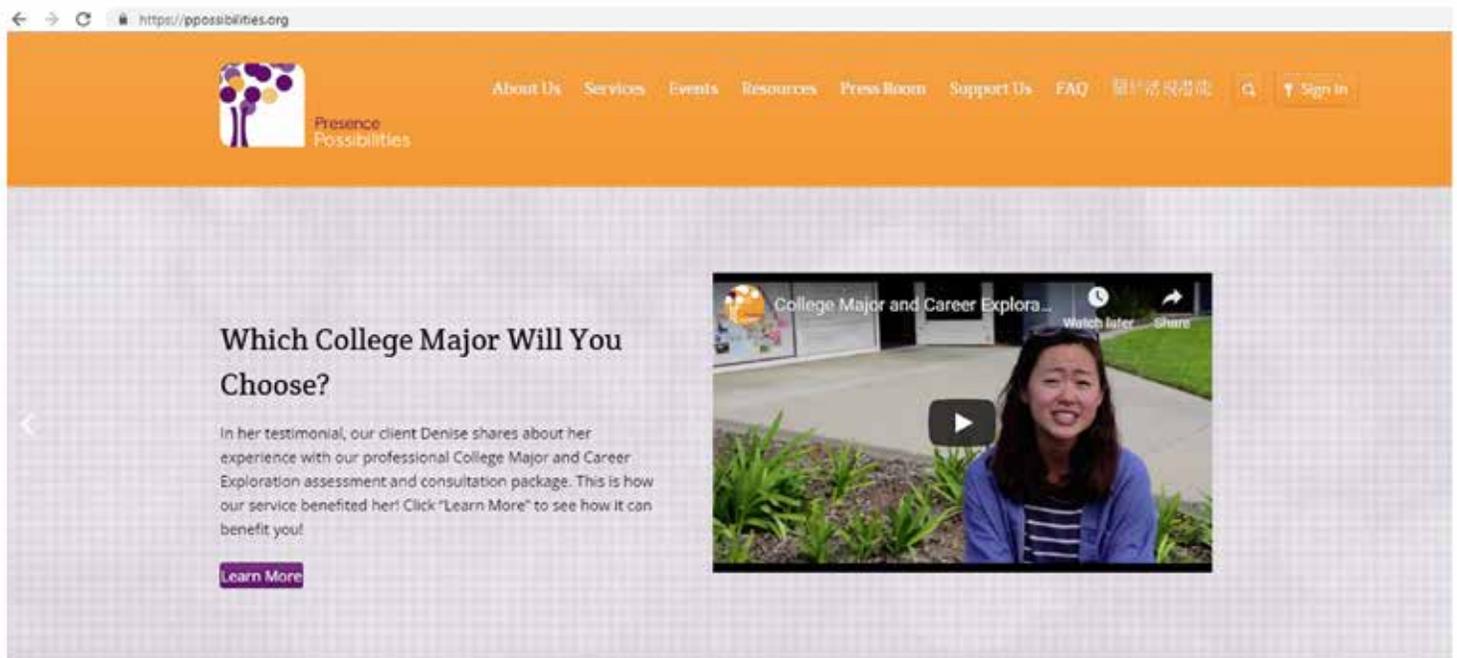
Please check out our Career Interview Series at <https://pposibilities.org/>!



In this video series, we interviewed Sandi Kaneko who shares with us about her career as an Interior Decorator. Sandi also divulges what it takes to be an entrepreneur along with the qualities needed for success.



In this Presence Possibilities Career Interview, Dana shares about her experience working as an occupational therapist.



Professional Assessment and Consultation – *Expanding your potential, Enriching your life*

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One-on-One Consultation

Workshops and Trainings



Professional Assessments and Consultations

- High School & College Students: College Major and Career Exploration
- Job Seekers & Career Changers: Career Direction and Development

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Bring this ad in to receive 25% off our assessment and consultation service.
Promotional discount expires on August 31, 2019

Inquiry: 626-810-5200 | info@ppossibilities.org | www.PPossibilities.org

Presence Possibilities aims to help individuals and families succeed through professional assessments and consultations identifying their personality, unique talents, culture, learning style, ideal college major and career. It is an initiative of Presence Quotient®, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based on Christian and family values.

2018 Events Highlights

	Events Held	People Served
Total	55	5367
Presence Quotient®	34	4772
Presence Possibilities	7	240
RE:NEW	2	65
Presence Hong Kong	12	290

Vision-Sharing Fundraiser in NorCal



Presence Life Planning Curriculum and Workshops in So Cal & Nor Cal



Presence Life Planning Curriculum in Hong Kong (High School, Pastoral, and Seminary Certificate Courses)



Our First Online Class was Launched

4 major characteristics of traditional cultures of Asian American families

(Yee, DeBaryshe, Yuen, Kim, and McCubbin, 2006)

* Presence Annual Newsletter 2017

- 1. Collectivism**
The family is the whole. The needs of the family are above the members' own personal needs and development.
- 2. Relational Orientation**
A person is defined by the relationship established with others, not as an individual alone.
- 3. Familialism**
Family is the most important entity/organization in the society, males are perceived as having a higher status than females, respecting the elderly, as the basis of the different levels of hierarchy.
- 4. Family Obligation**
Manifested between parents and children, there is an intense sense of intimate connections.



Healthy Dialogue between Parents & Youth

Tips for Youth



1 Corinthians 11:1 NIV
Imitate me, then, just as I imitate Christ.

2018 January -2019 February Financial Report

For January - December 2018

Total Income: \$369,321

Expenses: \$(293,626)

Balance: \$75,695

For January - February 2019

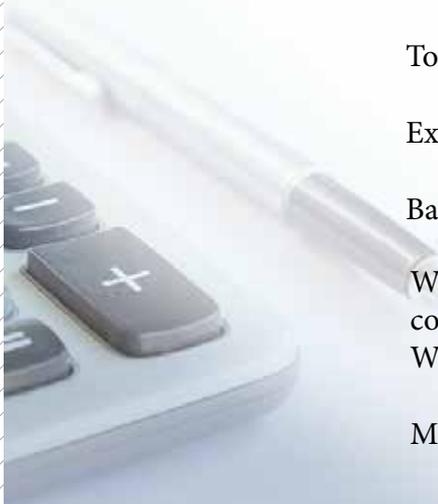
Total Income: \$17,271

Expenses: \$(50,629)

Balance: **\$(33,358)**

We invite you to pledge your support on a monthly basis to help Presence continue providing training and services in the community and even online. We seek to support and equip churches, families, and the next generation.

May God bless you abundantly!





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A Generation for the Cultural Mission

Supporting Christian and family values since 2003

Office: 17181 E. Gale Ave., Unit C, City of Industry, CA 91745

Tel: (626) 810-5200

*save
the date*

16th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner

Listening to the Hearts of the Young Generation

You are warmly invited to celebrate our 16th anniversary

Sunday, September 15th, 2019, 6:00 PM

Almanson Court

700 S. Almanson Street, Alhambra, CA 91801



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