Loving with Wisdom

2023 Presence Annual Newsletter

Love

・Loving with Wisdom
・2022 Presence Ministry Report
A Generation for the Cultural Mission - Supporting Christian and Family Values Since 2003

Presence
Mailing Address:
20651 Golden Spring Dr., #104
Walnut, CA 91789
(626) 810-5200

www.PresenceQuotient.org
www.RenewTheResponse.org
www.PPossibilities.org
www.PresenceHK.org
www.PQCanada.org

Founder & CEO: Dr. Agnes Ip, Ph.D., LMFT
Publications Director: Dr. Agnes Ip, Ph.D., LMFT
Managing Editor: Maggie Hui

Connect with us on social media:

LINE ID: presencequotient
WeChat ID: PresenceQuotient
WhatsApp: 626-550-6263

Editorial Team: Monica Chan Yip, Elizabeth Hughes, and Lily Ma
Designer: Carol Li

Save the date!

20th Anniversary

Presence Thanksgiving Dinner
September 17, 2023
6-9PM
Almansor Court, Alhambra
Healthy Dialogue, A Cross-Generational Training Course

Youth Workers ... **RECLAIM** your Youth Ministry!

Do you feel stuck and discouraged with a struggling Youth Ministry? Do you want to reclaim the Youth Ministry? **Presence can help:**

**REALIGN Perspectives**
- Reduce misunderstanding, clear your role, set healthy boundaries, and effectively collaborate with Chinese parents

**RENEW Relationships**
- Learn skills to guide youths to share their own needs and struggles with their parents

**REBUILD Teamwork**
- Train parents and youth ministry leaders to build an effective team to shepherd the youth

**Join our 3-hour Zoom training**
Date and time: contact us
Language: English / Cantonese / Mandarin
Fee: US$45/person

Class size: 9-15 students

Info/registration, contact us at:
HD@renewthereresponse.org

Presence Affiliate Partners (including Presence Quotient®, and Presence Quotient Canada™) are non-profit organizations that support Christian and family values, aiming to raise up a new generation for the cultural mission.
Editor: To love and be loved is a deep desire for most people. It has also been the core of Presence’s theme “Heart to Heart” the past couple years. In reality, to live out the love we desire may not be easy, and sometimes can even be a pain. In the past twenty years, Presence’s ministry has always been tied to relationships, with God, with family, and other people. Intergenerational connections, interfacing with society, and wise living in the world are always our focuses. Dr. Agnes, together with Presence, have been striving to pursue life transformation in the goal of loving with wisdom. Below is Dr. Agnes’ heartfelt sharing, while at the same time revealing the direction of Presence in the days to come.

Ip: A while ago, I felt very heavy in my heart. Walking with Presence for almost 20 years, I have been carrying the financial burden of Presence’s operations, family, as well as pursuing my credential. Going through every single hurdle, big or small, I asked myself, “At this moment, do I still have the strength to move on? Can I still carry on the mission of Presence?” I was shaken, but I did not want to give up. I cried out to God, “Lord, are you going to remove the hindrance in front of me? Is the Holy Spirit going to deliver me from this feeling of being knocked down?”

All of a sudden, I felt the urge to cast out this heavy feeling in the name of Jesus. I wanted to surf freely with the power of the Holy Spirit. Not everyone can identify with my personal experience. Yet along our faith journey, we do come across trials in terms of life’s circumstances or relationships. At times, we feel crushed, and we long for the transformation and the strength to stand up.

Presence was established to support believers to live out their faith, and to fulfill the commission to love. Being raised in a broken family, struggling with how to love, I have always been committed to providing practical skill training integrated with biblical principles at Presence, in search of faith, love and wisdom; hoping to fully utilize my seminary and psychology training. Recently,
we launched our “Heart to Heart” theme, packaged with different educational materials, to serve people of different ages and needs with an integrated approach.

However, I understand at times, we may feel too exhausted and drained to exercise any relational skills. I was trained to have skills to manage my own emotional self. Yet sometimes the pain can be so overwhelming that I feel totally desperate. **I know only the transforming grace and power of the Holy Spirit is the answer. Therefore, “back to the Bible” has become my slogan for myself and for Presence’s ministry.** Besides the integration of biblical truth and psychology, I love to see the transformation of believers by the Word of God and our resurrected Lord.

Last year, we hosted the “God’s Heart to My Heart: Scripture Creative Expression Contest” for the first time. We were so thankful and touched to see how participants shared the amazing work of the Bible in their lives through their creative entries. We are going to host the contest again this year, hoping to see more love for the Word of God rekindled and more life transforming stories.

In our “Presence Life Planning Curriculum,” on top of emphasizing biblical principles and learning from Bible characters, we also focus on the relationship between personal identity and multicultural society, learn how to manage ourselves and deal with others, live out our faith in gray areas, and exert influence.

We will also introduce **small group facilitator skills training** for small group leaders in churches. The pandemic has brought about difficulties and challenges to shepherding, so the role of small group ministries has become even more important these days. With this facilitating training, we hope to equip leaders with active listening and facilitating skills, in order to help them guide believers into deeper sharing in group settings; instead of just straight Bible teaching in a group.

The pandemic has turned our lives and society upside down, creating separation and isolation of people. Thankfully, during this difficult time, we have seen life changes and transformation among the participants of our ministries. We humbly present our “Heart to Heart” series as five loaves and two fishes to our Lord. May it be used by our Lord to connect people’s hearts to Him and to others in this disconnected world.

**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverb 9:10)** To love with wisdom is rooted in the fear of the Lord. Only when we humbly follow Him, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can truly love and forgive, and overcome all hurdles in connections and relationships.
Small Group Facilitator Skills Training

For small group leaders and church leaders

This training helps you and your small group members improve the group learning experience, in order to connect heart-to-heart and have deeper relationships.

**Trainer:** Agnes Ip, PhD., LMFT
- Presence Affiliate Partners founder and CEO
- Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology
- Licensed Family and Marriage Therapist
- Lecturer at seminaries

**Format:** Zoom/in-person

**Fees:** US $160/each (lunch not included, 25% off for group of 9 or more)

**Minimum class size:** 9 students

**Language:** English/Cantonese/ Mandarin

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### Suggested Training Time and Content

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| 1st     | 9:30 am - 11:00 am | Getting to know the roles and responsibilities of small group facilitators  
Intentional and effective small group facilitating skills |
| Lunch   | 12:45 pm - 1:25 pm | Lunch break (40 mins) |
| 2nd     | 11:15 am - 12:45 pm | Active listening skills  
How to let group members feel supported, understood, respected, and loved |
| 3rd     | 1:25 pm - 3:15 pm | How to ask appropriate questions: learn how to ask different types of questions to achieve a certain effect |
| 4th     | 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm | How to face challenges when leading small groups: offering effective solutions for difficult questions |

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### Suggested Small Group Intern Time and Content

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<tr>
<th>Practice and Instruction</th>
<th>9:00 am - 1:00 pm</th>
<th>Content</th>
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|                          |                   | Practice what you learn  
Presence offers teaching materials for practice  
Trainer’s on-the-spot guidance and feedback  
Maximum 9 students in one group  
Q&A |

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Email: Info@PresenceQuotient.org | Website:

Register: [QR Code]

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While Covid-19 has gradually progressed into an endemic disease, and many countries have opened their borders awaiting the economy to recover, somehow people may feel that the world is not the same anymore. Being so used to isolation from others during the pandemic, it will still take a long time to reconnect. In order for us to build a healthy heart and soul in the new normal of the world, there are 3 areas where we need to persist in:

- Facing loss and grief - Persist in fighting against fear through building a safe community
- Managing difficult relationships or communications, emotions and stress - Persist in learning to cope effectively
- Connecting scattered people - Persist in loving

In 2022, Presence focused on “Heart to Heart: Connect to Grow.” Through different activities and ministries, we strived to connect people with God and with others; so that the above 3 areas of persistence could be achieved.

Within the “Heart to Heart: Connect to Grow” theme, these were the 4 focuses:

**Growing in Love with God**

**God’s Heart to My Heart – Scripture Creative Expression Contest**

Together with our two affiliate partners, Presence Hong Kong Ltd (PHK), and Presence Quotient Canada™ (PQC), we hosted the “Scripture Creative Expression Contest and Sharing” for the first time, and the response was way better than we expected. Entries were submitted from the US, Canada, and Hong Kong! We look forward to receiving more inspiring entries when we host this contest again in 2023.
Growing in Love with My Family

“U Read, I Read” Blog Series
Together with one of our initiatives, RE:NEW, a Presence movement, we launched the “U Read, I Read Blog Series” to cultivate parent and youth relationships and high quality communication through reading together.

Workshops/Sermons
By the grace of God, Dr. Agnes was able to give sermons and conduct both physical and virtual workshops related to marriage and parenting in different places around the world in 2022, including Hong Kong, Vancouver, Detroit, and Syracuse. We also collaborated with Kairos Communication Service International to film the “Presence Vibrant Life” family series and provide a virtual parenting workshop to audiences in Beijing. It is our hope that as family members learn to connect with each other, they will grow in love for each other and build stronger families.

Growing in Love with My Church

Healthy Dialogue Training Program
The healthy growth of youth requires tight communication and cooperation between parents and youth pastors/workers. We revamped the Healthy Dialogue training program, splitting it into two series: Series A for parents and Series B for youth workers. In Series A, we help parents better communicate with youth workers. In Series B, we provide youth workers with tools to communicate with Chinese parents and to train teens to have a healthy dialogue with their own parents.
Heart-to-Heart - Group Facilitator Skill-Training
Presence and our affiliate partners equip group leaders in facilitating skills by creating educational study bundles with guidelines and suggestions for leading. These study bundles cover different daily life themes. For example, in 2022, we launched the bundle “Correcting Children's Behavior without Yelling or Hitting.” We are also developing the “Presence Heart-to-Heart - Group Facilitator Skill-Training” for group leaders to help the body of Christ be better engaged in learning and interacting with one another.

Growing in Love with My Community

Presence Life Planning Curriculum (PLPC) Certification Courses
Walking alongside one another is an important element of love. In the past two years, we have been providing professional training to equip quality certified trainers. These trained leaders can then walk and grow with others in the churches and communities they serve. In 2022, 6 trainers graduated from the PLPC Trainer Program and became certified! One of them is from Canada and another from Germany! In addition, together with our affiliate partner, PHK, we held two PLPC Basic Certification Courses (A) and one PLPC Advanced Certification Course (B). Our trainer interns and certified trainer (A) also taught multiple sessions of Basic Course (A). During all the different classes, we heard many heart-moving testimonies. We deeply feel that God is using us as we see students practice what they have learned in class and their lives are being changed!

Mental and Spiritual Health Education
Every week, we provide mental and spiritual health education to the community by sharing educational videos, Scriptures, podcasts, or blogs. We thank God that our Facebook and podcast views and plays have increased significantly since 2021.

Without your partnership, we would not be able to have come this far. “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:3-6) In 2023 and beyond, your continued support will be much appreciated. May God be given all the glory!

Please see the following chart for a summary of Presence's highlights in 2022. Please also visit our Events page to see our upcoming and past events.
Presence's Highlights in 2022
Your support to Presence enabled us to serve in the following ways...

Events/Training
- Served 2,661 participants
- Total of 131 physical and online training, speaking, parenting and mental health workshops, and consultations

Healthy Dialogue
- Revamped training program
  - Series A for parents;
  - Series B for youth workers

Scripture Creative Expression Contest
- Entries from the US, Canada, and Hong Kong
- 22 entries with 44 participants

Presence Life Planning Curriculum (PLPC) Courses
- 6 Trainers (A) became certified
- Completed PLPC (A) Cantonese filming
- Certification Courses A and B + Classes Led by Trainer Interns and Certified Trainer (A) - 77 classes

Free Educational Product Postings on websites and social media (as of 12/9/2022):
- 82 posts
- 7,420 Facebook views
- 5,176 YouTube views
- 539 podcast listeners
- Most viewed videos: “Should We Give Kids Material Rewards”, “Scripture Creative Expression Contest”, “Presence’s 19th Anniversary”

Presence Possibilities™
- 20 professional assessments and consultations
- Successfully conducted the Learning Style and Multiple Intelligence assessment via Zoom

RE:NEW a Presence movement
- Youth Ministry Prayer Meeting - Virtual Café with Youth Workers
- Launched “U Read, I Read” Blog Series

Fundraising Educational Products:
- New in 2022: Small group study guide bundle “Correcting Children’s Behavior without Hitting or Yelling”
Student Learning Styles & Multiple Intelligences

Recognize the ways your child learns best and 8 multiple intelligences in order to optimize his or her learning experience.

Our goals are to help you:
- Understand your child's gifts and areas of intelligence
- Reduce the conflicts between you and your child over studying
- Enhance your child's learning experience
- Grasp the prime time to find out and develop your child's potential talent

Package includes:
- Both the child and the parent(s) are to take 2 assessment tests
- Will receive the reports on Learning Style & Multiple Intelligence assessment
- The consultant will verify the results with you and your child
- Provide parent(s) with coaching tips and advice on how to develop the best possible environment to support your child's learning style and empowering their unique strength.

Approx. 2-3 hrs.

College Major & Career Direction

Identify careers you can be passionate about and the majors that can get you there!

Package includes:
- 2 professional assessment tests and a 1-on-1 meeting with our consultant
- The consultant will guide you to identify suitable majors and/or career possibilities that you may enjoy
- Explore the components of your personality, uniqueness, values, and how they can work together with your desired major and career goal
- Provide guidance to align your personality with your professional relationships
- Advise you on how to resolve work conflicts

Approx. 4 hrs.
Presence continued to serve the different generations with all of our hearts and resources in 2022. While striving to serve in these areas, we are still facing many difficulties in maintaining our routine operations and providing ministries. We thank all of you for your prayers, as Presence’s office moved smoothly to 1818 Sierra Leone Ave. Suite F, Rowland Heights, CA 91748 at the end of November, 2022.

Similar to churches and many other organizations, we have struggled financially especially during this post-pandemic age. Please continue to pray for us! If you feel moved by the Holy Spirit, we hope you can also support us financially so that Presence’s cultural mission can be carried on. Please click here to donate.