**Presence**

**The Beauty of the Child:**

**C is for their Christ Lights, which shine from them so bright.**

**H is for their little hugs, that are so warm and tight.**

**I is for individuality, which they have no trouble showing.**

**L is for their Love inside, which is always freely flowing.**

**D is for their divine presence, that they so openly share. *(C. Jeffrey Cornell)***

**A large sign at the Texas A&M University football stadium says "HOME OF THE 12TH MAN." While each team is allowed eleven players on the field, the 12th Man is the presence of thousands of A&M students who remain standing during the entire game to cheer their team on. The tradition traces its roots to 1922 when the coach called a student from the stands to suit up and be ready to replace an injured player. Although he never entered the game, his willing presence on the sideline greatly encouraged the team. (David McCasland, in Our Daily Bread, November 16, 2016)**

**Presence is more than just being there. (Malcolm S. Forbes, in The Further Sayings of Chairman Malcolm)**

**The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other. (Burton Hillis, in Better Homes and Gardens)**

**What can be seen from my window, what can be reached on foot within a day's walk of my house, may seem tame enough: no surf breaks on rocky shores, no mountains gleam with snow, no bears prowl. It is a settled region, marked everywhere by human presence. But for all our buildings and lights and roads, for all our signs and words, that human presence is only a thin film stretched over mystery. Let sunlight flame in a blade of grass, let night come on, let thunder roar and tornado whirl, let the earth quake, let muscles twitch, let mind curl about the least pebble or blossom or bird, and the true wildness of the place, of all places, reveals itself. (Scott Russell Sanders, in Staying Put)**

**Your children need your presence more than your presents. (Rev. Jesse Jackson)**

**It is possible for persistent praise to make a complete change in one’s health and appearance. One cannot fail to experience improved health, if his thoughts and words are filled with praise, never yielding to condemnation. Pliny, the Roman statesman, wrote that some people carry health in their presence as a result of praise-filled words. *(Catherine Ponder, in The Dynamic Laws of Living)***

**As president of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, George Washington did not feel free to enter the debates. This suited him. He was not a good public speaker. As a young man in the Virginia House of Burgesses, he had barely said a word. He had been equally silent in the Continental Congress in 1774 and 1775. But his commanding presence at every session of the convention was a powerful reminder to the delegates that they had gathered to create a stronger central government. (Thomas Fleming, in Reader's Digest)
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