



## Pandemic Serves as Growth Catalyst for the Young Adult Community in Central California

Two years ago, Central California Conference's Young Adult team laid the groundwork for what is now commonplace—Zoom-based quarantine ministries. In November 2018, Pastor Anil Kanda, director of Young Adult and Youth Discipleship department (YAYD), hosted a symposium for public speaking which drew more than 160 people of all ages. Of that event in 2018, Kanda says, "I feel this was an indication to look for more innovative ways to train and equip laity. Members are hungry for practical training and opportunities; they asked questions, wrote notes, and felt the entire one-day event was outstanding! I felt God tremendously blessed." Within the first weeks of the pandemic, Kanda and his team launched calendars that included 1-2 virtual meetings every day to meet spiritual needs; then launched a series of "Growth Labs" in masterclass-style which taught practical skills such as finance, fitness, and gardening. Each episode averaged 6,000 views. For the Conference, this age of virtual meetings has transcended and exceeded expectations for building community, transforming lives, and bringing hope to those in their sphere of influence—and they are confident God's hands has brought this all to fruition.

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