



我們的服務介紹 Our Service Introduction

直擊出殯接觸棺木壽衣 無懼死亡老人笑迎後事

「死亡對年青人來說，是有恐懼的。」多位參觀有關殯葬設施及親睹一位仙逝老人出殯過程的高齡老人齊齊地笑著說。「然死亡是無可避免的事實，已達高齡，那有何驚恐。」

「未知死亡何時到臨，倒不如事先安排後事，免任人擺佈。」原來這群參加此個名為「後顧無憂」自遊行活動的長者早已向本會登記，委託本會於其身故後代辦後事的安排。「事先目睹離世後的殯葬安排，確使人感到安心，有助臨終前有後顧無憂的安樂感。」

原來這被稱為「死亡之旅」的活動，行程乃是帶領三十名老人，參觀各項向為市民視為忌諱的地方，包括醫院殯房出殯及直擊遺體送入火葬場情況、壽衣與棺木專門店、殯儀館、土葬墓地、火葬場、公私營灰位、牌位、撒灰紀念公園、骨殖位等。

據主本會高級經理李玉芝姑娘稱：「殯儀殯葬絕不應被視為神秘的事，由於人們傳統思想的羈絆，多有著迷信與不吉祥的忌諱，尤以親身接觸及認識身故後的問題，唯他們仍有憂慮殯葬的安排事宜，故多於臨終前因未有表達意願，致後人會有無所適從的苦惱。」

「面對人口日益老化，將會有更多市民面對如何妥善處理先人後事的安排，故為避免因認識不足而辦事，致後悔終生，此活動純為一教育活動，希喚起社會人士以開放態度，坦誠地預早規劃人生終結的安排。」

為了讓老人清楚認識，此個自遊行教育參觀團更有專事生命規劃註冊社工、殯儀從業員陪團及有關場地人士，介紹各項社會服務、善終設施及申請手續、解答中西殯殮禮儀的選擇、各種鄉規與習俗的異同、風俗與宗教的問題等，亦同場派發有關參考資料等。

李玉芝相信：「教育是一個社會、一個行業賴以進步的基本前提之一。殯儀殯葬是一個社會不可缺少的事項，既然香港是一個思想開放的社會，我們希望可舉辦更多類似似的「殯葬教育」活動，以使市民從不理解、疑惑到完全接受，並主動參與規劃。」故本會稍後亦會由現在只接受貧困無依者委託外，將會擴大服務有經濟能力的無依者，以助消除他們對「最後一程」的顧慮，而可生前安心及後顧無憂。查詢熱線：2831-3230。



MORE AND MORE ELDERLY COME TO REALIZE, NOTHING IS MORE FEARFUL THAN THE FEAR ITSELF

"Facing one's own death is never easy, especially for young people." Many elderly, who just witnessed themselves how an actual funeral is arranged, shared a very same idea. "But for us, the call from Heaven may not be too far away and nobody's going to escape from it anyway, what's the point of fearing it?"

"Stepping up to plan forward and make all those end-of-life decisions myself is always better than leaving the choice to the others," continued the elderly while taking part in a funeral-navigation tour that organized by us, the St. James' Settlement. These elderly had already registered with us and authorized us to arrange for their funerals. "Being able to see exactly how his / her own funeral is going to be is the ultimate peace of mind that people need."

There were 30 elderly joining our funeral navigation tour. In the tour they visited nearly all the places that most people would choose to avoid. From hospital mortuary to crematorium, we visited coffin dealers, funeral homes, cemetery, crematorium, places for urn graves, niche, spirit shrines and the relevant providers that offered the services. We even visited the memorial garden near crematorium, where people used to scatter their ancestors' ashes.

Miss Josephine Lee, Senior Manager of St. James' Settlement, further explained the idea behind our funeral navigation services. "Funerals and interment should not be seen as something that mystical or ghastly. It is just because of superstitions, people are avoiding it. They don't talk about it, nor would they reveal how they would like others to help them rest truly in peace after death. Eventually all responsibilities are left to the bereaved families who need to make all those decisions under pressure of time and deep grief."

"Let's face it, our society is aging fast. Shortly in future many more people have to face these tough decisions what to do with the funerals of their fathers, mothers or relatives. By getting well informed, people can avoid making hasty decisions they may later regret. This navigation tour is actually part of our education effort, through which we hope to get more people honestly face the problem and plan ahead for the end of life."

Those who accompanied in the navigation tour included registered social workers specialized in End-of-life care, service agents from funeral & interment service providers and from relevant facility operators. Through the presentations and the pamphlets distributed, they were briefed on what sorts of relevant social services available, what is hospice service, how and where to apply; and gained brief understandings how traditions, beliefs, funeral customs & rituals differ under different cultures & religions and how to choose between Chinese and western funeral rites.

"Forethought is forearmed, and we can only get more people to step up to get prepared through continuous education. People in Hong Kong are open-minded, and they understand very well they are going to need funeral services sooner or later. To help them beat their fear, then accept the fact and eventually involve proactively in planning forward, we will continue organizing similar educational activities in future," said Josephine in the conclusion. In fact we are going to extend our span very soon — shortly afterwards not only poor singleton elderly, but also the elderly who afford to pay on their own, can authorize us to arrange for their funerals on their behalf. We hope through this last tribute paid to the elderly, we could relieve them from anxieties and misery before the end of life. Our Enquiry Hotline: 2831 3230, call us to check out the details.

「那處就是山墳呀。」
"That is the grave-yard."



問與答
Q&A

收取傢具否？

問：我將於下月遷居，新屋會添置一些傢具，現居所有一雙人床、四人餐枱連坐椅以及一套四人梳化，請問你們會不會收取，以轉送予其他有需要的人？

答：非常多謝你對我們的支持，使可服務經濟情況不佳的弱勢社群，使可改善他們的家居生活質素；唯因為我們的資源及人手缺乏，加上亦沒有地方暫存傢具，雖然社會上有貧困者有傢具的需要，但由於在另一項「慈惠服務」的「電器贈長者」中，負責的社工已筋疲力竭處理個案的申請審核、家訪、統籌義工的工作(如收取電器的捐贈、檢查、送贈及安裝等)、籌募善款及文書報告等工作已忙個不停，根本沒有餘閒肩負其他工作，故我們暫無能處理大家的傢具捐贈。

期盼善長們繼續扶助，伸出援手，可令我們有著更多資源及人手，以及倉庫使可早日推出「傢具轉送服務」，以更可發揮你們的行善指令，及可改善弱勢社群的家居生活質素，得著社會熱心人士的關懷。

Do you collect furnitures?

Q: I am going to move next month. As I'll buy some new furniture for my new home, I won't need my current double bed, dining table with four chairs and a four-seat sofa. I wonder if you would collect them and give them to someone who might need them.

A: Thank you very much for your support, which makes us capable to provide services to the under-privileged and improve their living conditions. However, due to inadequate manpower and resources and the lack of storage space for furniture, and that our social worker responsible for another of our Charity Project "Electrical Appliances for the Elderly" is already heavily occupied in vetting applications, making home visits, coordinating the work of volunteers under the scheme (such as collecting, examining, delivering and installing donated electrical appliances), organizing fund-raising campaigns, and clerical work, even though there are poor people who need furniture, we do not have energy to deal with furniture donations.

We hope donors would continue to give us their support and helping hands, so that we might have more manpower and resources and one day provide "Furniture Donation Service", so as to follow your charity instructions. Not only would us then be able to improve the living conditions of the under-privileged and allow them to receive the care of the warm-hearted.

