

THE FINAL JOURNEY

The After Life Services (ALS) are a crucial part of CMC. **Our duty is to arrange everything for the family after the death of a patient. This is the final stage of our journey on this earth.** It is a time of deep sorrow for the relatives and hard for them to make the needed arrangements. That is where we come in. We do our very best to make their return home from hospital a smooth experience.

With the COVID-19 protocols in place, our pattern of work is different. We are provided with extra protective equipment. The patient's body may be kept sealed in multiple bags for safety and the family may not able to see the face of their loved one.

We also have the responsibility of arranging ambulances for patients in emergency situations. The pandemic affected everyone alike. It had the same effect on all classes of people, poor and the rich alike; without food, water, transport or shelter, we are all lost. We at ALS are able to help many people in our own simple ways during the pandemic.

Translation from Tamil

Mrs. Pushpalatha



A LIMINAL SPACE

Times of suffering and pain play a significant role in our lives. In literature and philosophy, we learn about the liminal space - a space between a critical incident and a person's resolution. Our founder Dr. Ida's experience of "Three knocks in the night" and how things evolved is an example of liminal space. **Often a liminal space is a place of discomfort or suffering, of uncertainty which eventually ends in transformation.**



Facing the pandemic, the entire world appears to be in a liminal space. For each of us it is uncomfortable from different angles. For a chaplain like me, the miraculous and mysterious impact of healing touch, the physical proximity which eliminates a sense of alienation, has been affected. My team expressed feeling uncomfortable and guilty for not being able to touch a patient while praying for them.

Can we view this challenge as an experience of liminality?

For a person who is ill and going through hospitalisation, this is a liminal space. It takes them through disintegration to integration. May be we can apply this concept to our experience of the ministry of healing of Christ.

Rev. Arul Dhas