

香港撒瑪利亞會年報

1978

ANNUAL REPORT

BY

THE SAMARITAN BEFRIENDERS H.K.



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國際撒瑪利亞會原則20條

- 1 撒瑪利亞會是一世界性志願團體。會員的工作是對那些孤獨、沮喪而意圖自殺的人予以幫助，務使其擺脫一切精神上的困擾及打消自殺的念頭。當絕望者求助時，不論日夜，會員都樂意給予慰解。
- 2 會員對求助者之幫助是完全基於人類之同情心，他們具備聖經上撒瑪利亞人的精神，在別人急需援助時，伸出友誼之手，盡量給予關懷及照顧。
- 3 本會選擇會員是不論其信仰、種族、性別、年齡、政治背景及社會地位，然對於個人的品德及其對此項工作之適應能力，則作審慎的觀察及考慮。
- 4 爲了提高服務水準，撒瑪利亞會屬下各友會皆由一位主席及數位主要負責人領導。另有專業人士提供醫學及各方面之意見，並參與選擇及訓練會員之工作。
- 5 在電話服務完備之國家，每一支會在宣傳方面，除了列明會址外，還附加一易於記憶之電話號碼，以便求助者在最短促的時間內與本會取得聯絡（求助者之姓名可予以保密）。
- 6 本會歡迎電話求助者前赴本會與會員會談，有時也會主動邀請來電人前來，此乃視乎個別情形而定。不過，求助者可自由選擇聯絡方式，以電話及書信聯絡均可。
- 7 本會最主要的工作是在危急關頭時，阻止絕望者進行自我毀滅。
- 8 有些孤獨絕望的人基於責任上的種種原因而不能自殺，或是在求助時尚未有自殺的傾向；雖然如此，會員亦與他們保持相當時期的聯絡，盡量給予關懷，以防止他們幹出自殺行爲。

- 9 若來電人替別人担心（他的朋友陷於絕望或有自殺的跡象），本會將向他建議種種解決辦法。對於不直接求助的人，本會概不加以干擾，除非他的年紀過於幼小或老邁或是身體不適要由可靠人士代爲聯絡；在此情形下，本會可給予暫時性的幫助。
- 10 求助者可分兩類，一類是需要長期照顧的人，另一類是面臨自我毀滅邊緣而急需本會援助的人；在此情形下，後者將獲得優先的幫助。
- 11 本會盡量幫助每一求助者，但不敢肯定全部收效。各支會負責人必須善用人力，對於精神病患者或頑強而不接受慰解的人，本會將不予理會。
- 12 本會並不供應醫療服務，若來電人有此需要，本會亦可幫助他們取得醫療照顧。各支會皆有一醫學顧問（通常是精神病專家）協助主席處理此等事宜。
- 13 本會並非一專業訓練之個案機構，如求助者之難題需要社會工作者（曾受專業訓練的）代爲解決，則本會將不予理會。
- 14 本會並非一社會福利機構，若求助者有任何物質上的需求，本會將移交有關之福利機構處理；唯在缺乏福利機構之國家則屬例外。
- 15 本會並非一基督教團體。無論會員信奉任何宗教，他絕對不能藉着接觸的機會向求助者灌輸宗教觀念，或說服他信奉某一宗教。若求助者需要某種精神上的寄託，則本會移交適合之教會代爲處理。
- 16 會員祇能向求助者透露姓氏及會員證號碼，名字及其他有關資料則不得洩露，除非對方繼續保持聯絡。不過在求助者與會員繼續接觸時，應由主席決定求助者所能獲悉的資料，及決定會員能否在家中款待他們。
- 17 求助者向會員透露之事情將予以保密。倘事件屬於高度秘密或涉及犯罪行爲，本會絕對保密，同時在未經求助者同意之前，絕不向會外人士或會內與事件無關之人士洩露，唯主席則例外。若求助者要求事件絕對守秘，甚至主席也不可洩露時，會員將不予以聆聽。
- 18 不論何時，求助者對自己的命運有絕對之操縱權，他可自由拒絕本會之幫助，或中斷與本會之聯絡，而不必憂慮會受到本會之阻撓，即使他有自殺的跡象或意圖幹出本會所反對之行爲。若會員與求助者接觸時（不論是面談或通過電話）推斷出他有自殺的傾向，應盡量運用機智取得他的同意在日後再次聯絡，從而獲悉其進展情況。在求助者的同意下，會員可把資料紀錄下來。在此情形下繼續的調查顯明並不違反求助者之意願。
- 19 各支會同隸屬於一合法組織之管理委員會轄下，各委員均爲支會代表，得保留委任各支會主席之權力，並負責審查以上的宗旨是否切實履行。
- 20 祇有管理委員會有權更改以上宗旨，例如准許新支會在某段時間內提供有限度之服務，或准許海外的支會以其它名義設立；同時亦祇有管理委員會有權修訂本會之宗旨。

HON. PATRONS

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Bishop of Hong Kong & Macau
港澳區會督白約翰

Bishop John B. Wu
胡振中主教

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Hon. Legal Adviser: Mr. D.W. Ling	林大偉律師 (義務法律顧問)
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Dr. John Wedderburn	韋得賓醫生
Rev. Cyril S. Clarke	高克禮牧師

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(七七年六月至七九年五月)

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Sr. Rose Duchesne 德樂施修女	Vice-chairman 副主席
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司庫

Assistant Treasurer
副司庫

Rota Secretary (Chinese)
中文部輪值秘書

Rota Secretary (English)
英文部輪值秘書

Chinese Assistant Sec.
中文副秘書

English Assistant Sec.
英文副秘書

Chinese Training Officer
中文部訓練班主任

English Training Officer
英文部訓練班主任

English Public Relation Off.
英文部公共關係主任

Chinese Public Relation Off.
中文部公共關係主任

Membership Secretary
會員秘書

Member
委員

Member
委員

*常務委員會每兩年改選一次

香港撒瑪利亞會年報 1978



主席 ■ 杜學魁

① 本年報係本會一九七八年度一月份至該年十二月底止的工作結果，其中包括樂富工作中心、灣仔英語工作中心、何文田工作中心所處理的個案；何文田中心在七八年七月十七日開始在日間接受辦理個案，歷史較短。附圖一之數字則包括本會副主席葉錫恩議員所處理有關情緒低落的個案，以及本會每年在暑期為會考同學特別服務的個案。

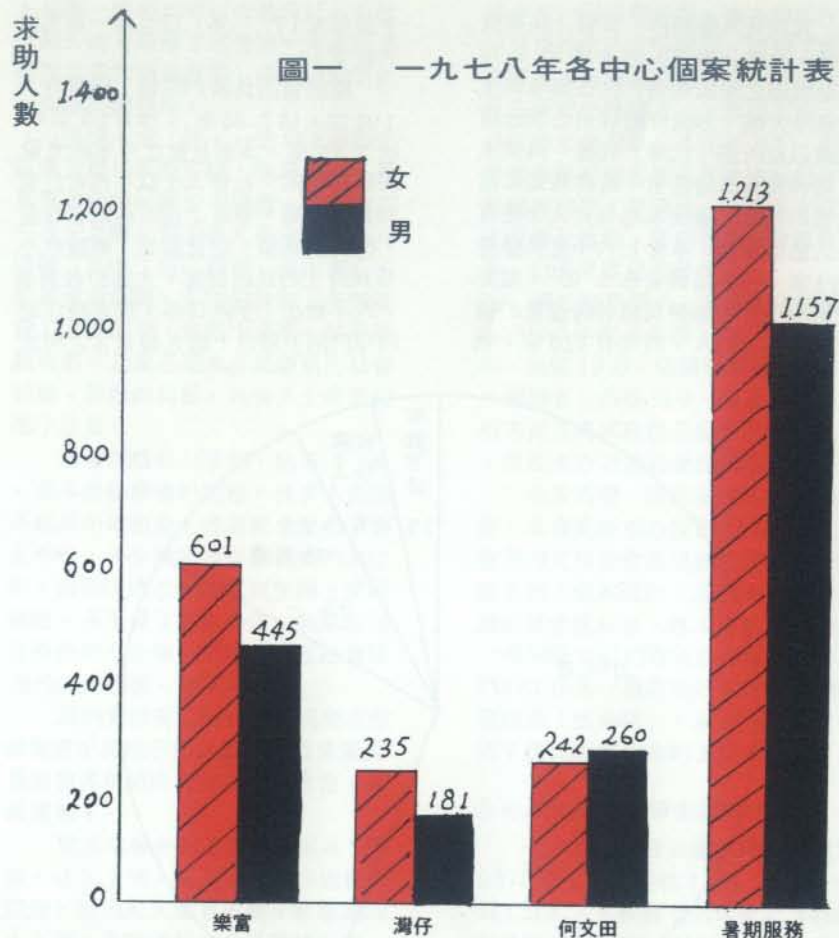
②七八年度個案與七七年度個案比較

七七年一般男性個案 567 宗，七八年則為 886 宗，增加額為 56%。女性個案七七年共有 634 宗，七八年則為 1078 宗，增加額為 70%。

本會暑期為學生的特別服務：七七年度為 1561 宗，其中男 779 人，女 782 人，七八年度為 2370 宗，男 1157 人，女 1213 人，增加額為 51.8%，男佔 48.5%，女佔 55%。

③七八年度個案年齡比較

除了「暑期服務」之當然對象為青年學生外，日常所處理之一般情緒低落個案，仍以廿一歲至四十五歲這一階段為多，計有 1211 宗，佔全部個案 62%，次為廿歲以下，共有：438 宗，佔全部個案 22%。



④七八年度企圖自殺個案原因統計

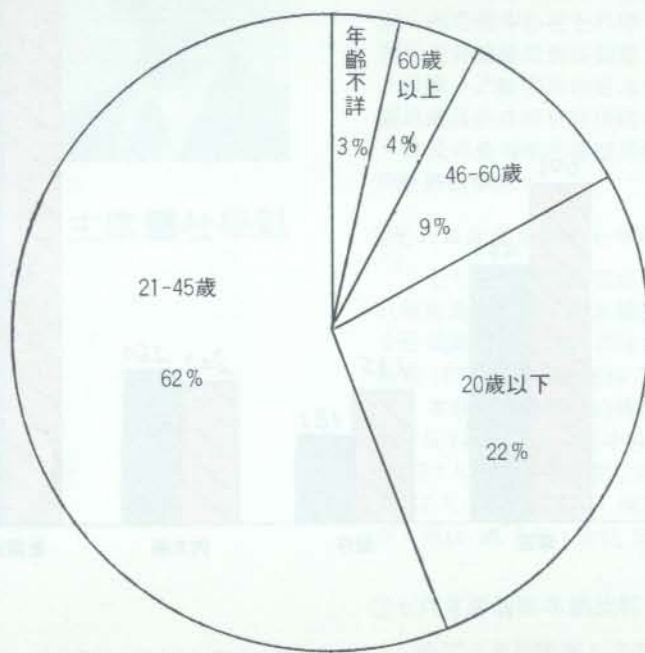
本會七八年度所處理個案以男女間的情感困惑問題佔多數，計有 327 宗，佔全部個案 13% 強，如果將婚姻及未婚懷孕等問題列入同類性質的

話，則案件總數達 578 宗，佔全部個案的 23.4%，這確屬本港社會目前經濟安定情況下最突出的社會問題。我們深望社會人士及有關當局注意及此，對症下藥，對青少年予以適當的婚姻及有關男女問題的教育。

其次是人際關係，實質上是家庭問題，計共250宗，佔全部10.1%。這問題之形成是由於居住環境與生活條件欠佳，形成家庭成員之間出現隔膜以及所謂「代溝」問題。再其次是精神病與情緒低落。精神病是本港嚴重的問題，據說本港每九人中便有一人患精神病；本會七八年度共接獲211宗，佔全部個案8.5%。如果把另一項有可能變為精神病患者的情緒低落個案列入，則共有420宗，佔

全部個案17.1%，這也是一個可怕的數字。

關於貧困負債的問題，前者有：194宗，佔7.86%；後者55宗，佔2.25%。本港社會近年來經濟發展較為穩定，社會人士似乎沒有注意到貧困問題，事實上由於高地價政策，使物價高漲，通貨膨脹，轉嫁到小市民身上的負擔頗重。大部份救助者，入不敷出，手停口停，於是投注站向他們招手雖然十賭九輸是古之明訓



圖二

一九七八年個案年齡分類表

，但博一博總比坐以待斃為好，因而沉溺於賭，賭輸了就借債。本港財務公司之多如雨後春筍，適足以證明此一問題的嚴重性。

根據本會了解，一些中下層的受薪者及部份家庭主婦，憑身份證、糧單等證件向財務公司貸款，每次約二千元之間，到手後大多充作賭本，賭輸了再借；借乙還甲，借丙還乙，泥足愈是滿陷，有些先後向廿多間借貸，利上加利，負債十多萬，結果悲劇收場。這實在是本港最嚴重的社會問題，罪惡的淵藪，社會人士及當局應予注意。

房屋問題有159宗，佔6.4%，是本港極嚴重的問題。很多人負擔不起高昂的租金，在高租金壓抑下痛苦呻吟；不少被困處在鐵籠式的床位中，因居住擠迫造成家庭失調、家庭解組，甚至發生亂倫事件。如果說居住條件的不合理，是形成本港社會問題的主要因素，也不過火。

我們對政府以財政困難為理由削減興建平民屋宇的計劃，以致未能兌現港督多年前向市民許下的諾言，深感遺憾！

要求本會介紹工作的個案共125宗，佔5.1%，這是比較難以協助的問題。原因是求職者多數年齡超過四十五歲，身無專長或有輕微缺陷者。而此時此地，眾所周知，我們的職業缺乏保障，老年人缺少關懷，超過四十五歲若無特殊技能或人事者，確難找到工作，若加上有缺陷，更是難上加難。欣悉當局在本年度對老年福利已有所改進，但距所需仍屬遙遠！

關於強姦案，我們在七八年度內接到21宗，佔全部個案0.90%，

其中有一宗是雞姦案。強姦問題在近年已為社會人士所關注，展開了對受害與被強姦婦女的輔導工作，而本會為主要贊助機構之一。此項工作，在香港婦女會及熱心人士努力下，對本港強姦罪惡的劣風及其後遺症已有所阻嚇與補救。深望此一有意義有價值之服務及活動，能加強從社會教育着手，以遏阻罪惡的發生。

關於酗酒個案，本會英語服務中心於七八年度共處理21宗，計男性8宗，女性13宗，佔個案總數0.85%。酗酒者以西籍為多，而此一問題在西方更是構成自殺及犯罪的重要因素，但在東方社會則無此嚴重。

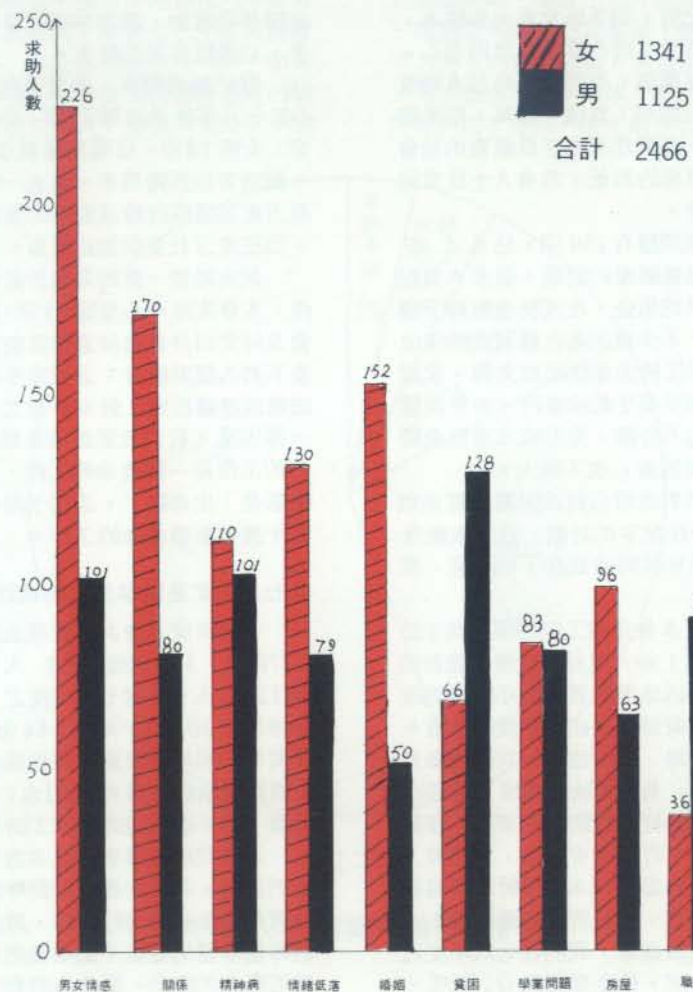
最後需要一提的是關於戲弄的案件，本會英語中心接過11宗，樂富總會及何文田分會也接過相當數字，但並不列入個案統計。這些案件多半通過電話虛構故事，對本會義工人員是一種困擾。我們希望戲弄者應明白我們的工作是一種救命的工作，我們的電話是「生命綫」，請勿干擾，以免因干擾而影響救命的工作。

⑤七八年度暑期學生求助統計

七八年度本會共處理過此類個案2370宗，其中男性1157人，女性為1213人，較諸七七年度之1468宗增加了902宗，即61.44%。這些個案中，因考試失敗，感到前途茫茫，情緒嚴重低落者共有21名；有情緒問題，但不很嚴重的共有128名。

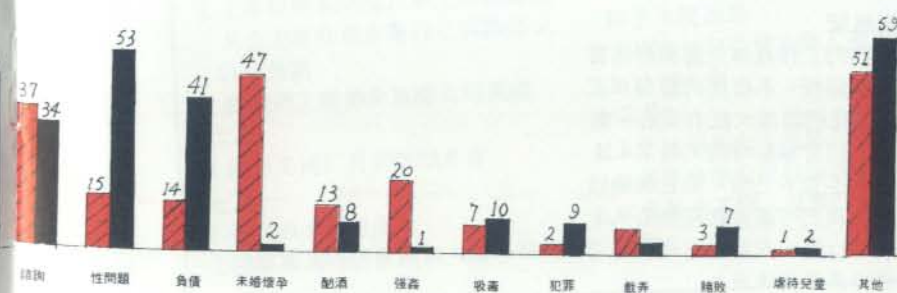
這裏我們根據事實及本港青年學生的需求，再度向教育當局呼籲：請給青年學生一條可行的路，請滿足他們希望學習的要求。這是他們非常正當而應有的權利，滿足他們對學習的

圖三 一九七八年個案原因分類表



類別	男	女	總數	%
夜中	39	72	111	4.68
中一至中四	10	21	31	1.3
商科學校	22	88	110	4.65
重讀中五	326	341	667	28.15
醫護人員	19	25	44	1.85
預科	338	287	625	26.37
專上學院	65	50	115	4.85
海外留學	27	16	43	1.82
謀職	84	104	188	7.94
情緒問題	67	61	128	5.4
普通	13	8	21	0.88
嚴重	27	34	61	2.57
父母/朋友代求職	120	106	226	9.54
其他	1,157	1,213	2,370	100
總數				

圖四 一九七八年暑期學生輔導分類統計表



要求是良好政府應盡的責任。請看：有667名因會考一時失敗要求重讀中五，但找不到學校，無門可入，難道連一次機會也不給他們？有625青年雖然會考合格了，卻無法升讀，因為本港預科學位太少，規定太苛，學費太貴，大多數想升學者碰得焦頭爛額，不得其門而入！他們若是去做壞事，社會當然不諒，但他們不過是想多學習一點，多讀幾年書，難道這也不對？不予機會，不予幫助？請當局者三思!!!

⑥結語

又一年過去了，本會在本港從事服務已有十九年。從統計數字看，我們處理的案件年有增加，特別是七八年較七七年增加的比率更大。這不能說是我們的成功，做出了更多的成績，祇能說是本港社會問題更趨嚴重，我們的責任也日趨重大！當然我們希望有一天，我們的工作減少了，是由於社會問題的真正減少，但這需要我們付出更多的溫暖、更多的關懷、更多的熱愛！因此我們在這裏強烈地呼籲：撒瑪利亞會的義工們，善良的熱心助人者，再接再勵——

向人間的苦難進軍！

⑦檢討與展望

(1)我們的工作基本上屬義務性質，廿四小時服務，不收任何費用。正因為如此，我們需要大批有愛心、耐心、恒心、經常奉獻時間的義工。目前我們的人手並不足夠，而且流動性很大，因此我們呼籲並歡迎熱心人士參予我們的行列，有意者可填表申請參加本會的義工訓練班。

(2)由於經費不足，我們在目前祇能僱用兩位受薪人員（一為書記一為行政秘書）。我們希望在經濟條件的許可下增加受薪人員，提高工作效率。

(3)同樣也是因為經費不足，我們不能夠有專業人員做研究工作，出版書刊，對多年來本會所彙集的珍貴資料不能充份整理分析，因此我們也希望今後有所改進。

(4)一些求助者，在某些特殊情況下需要經濟援助，譬如立待解決的食宿、交通等問題，往往因時間所限，未能獲得有關方面的即時幫助。本會義工經常出錢出力，自己解決。因此我們也希望今後對此類問題有所改進。例如：設置特別基金，給予求助者必須的即時小額現金援助。

(5)最後我們謹向所有曾用不同方式，包括捐助、提供意見等人士致以謝忱。

一年活動回顧

一月

- 1.主席杜學魁先生應拔萃女校邀請作「自殺問題」演講
- 2.聯合醫院邀請本會工作人員出席專題講座

三月

- 1.出版公開性刊物——會訊，對外聯絡，介紹本會服務
- 2.英語部兩會員 74 及 194 應邀出席國際婦女日聚會
- 3.主席杜學魁先生出席理工學院「教育綠皮書討論」會議及向理工學生會演講
- 4.幹事黃德文先生及吳容先生應邀到明愛中心演講

四月

- 1.主席杜學魁先生及幹事黃德文先生應邀往真光中學作專題演講
- 2.主席杜學魁應社聯季刊邀請撰寫「防止自殺輔導服務」專文
- 3.英文部舉辦義工訓練班
- 4.中文部舉辦義工訓練班

五月

- 1.主席杜學魁先生及副主席葉錫思女士出席在東京舉行之國際防止自殺會議
- 2.歡送副主席德樂施修女回英國

六月

「讀者文摘」月刊訪問本會

七月

- 1.何文田分會啓用
- 2.國際撒瑪利亞會創辦人陳華樂先生訪問本會

生訪問本會

- 3.主席杜學魁先生接受國際學校及十五位心理學家訪問

八月

- 1.警事顧問賀文儀醫生逢星期四早上在何文田分會當值
- 2.主席杜學魁先生應邀往青山醫院作「自殺及企圖自殺」專題演講
- 3.幹事吳容先生、黃德文先生、羅錦鳴先生及劉淑棠小姐接受商業電台、香港電台及麗的電視訪問介紹本會「暑期學生服務」工作

十月

- 1.幹事吳容先生及黃德文先生應邀往香港大學作「防止自殺」專題演講
- 2.香港電台電視部「警訊」節目訪問幹事劉廣禎先生談本會輔導強姦受害者工作
- 3.「婦女與家庭」雜誌訪問本會女性會員並作專題介紹

十一月

- 1.響應社會服務聯會協辦「社會福利服務展覽」，提供本會服務資料予大眾認識
- 2.美國撒瑪利亞會創辦人狄更斯小姐訪問本會

十二月

- 1.主席杜學魁先生應邀到香港大學心理學會作交流討論座談
- 2.本會義務工作人員舉行聖誕聯歡晚會

香港撒瑪利亞會

THE SAMARITAN BEFRIENDERS HONG KONG

一九七八年四月一日至七九年三月卅一日止收支賬目

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 1979.

STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Years ended March 31, 1979 and 1978

Income:	1979	1978
Membership subscriptions	\$ 1,880	\$ 1,170
Donations	83,925	20,734
Sale of Christmas cards	10,144	16,080
Interest	262	527
	<u>96,211</u>	<u>39,511</u>
Expenses:		
Salaries	28,070	10,320
Purchases of furniture and equipment	2,333	270
Leasehold improvements	10,188	—
Rent and rates — net of subsidy	1,926	447
Repairs and maintenance	1,528	426
Stationery and printing	9,233	7,824
Membership subscriptions	695	100
Publications	1,689	587
Electricity, telephone and telex	5,081	2,942
Newspapers and advertisements	938	216
Postage and stamp duty	1,220	320
Donations	3,600	4,200
Film production costs	—	3,380
Travelling	662	59
Sundry	1,392	631
	<u>68,555</u>	<u>31,722</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	27,656	6,789
Accumulated surplus at beginning of year	23,158	16,369
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$50,814</u>	<u>\$23,158</u>

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements on Page 16

The Society was registered under the laws of Hong Kong on October, 7, 1963.

Accounting Basis

The accounting records and the financial statements of the Society are maintained and presented, respectively, on the cash basis. No attempt is made to quantify or reflect the value of donated time and costs of volunteer workers who contribute their services to the Society.

Property, Furniture and Equipment

It is the policy of the Society to expense the cost of leasehold improvements and purchases of furniture and equipment wholly in the year of acquisition. As a result of this, property, furniture and equipment is maintained in the balance-sheet at the nominal value of \$1.

Taxation

No provision for Hong Kong income taxes is required as the Society is a non-profit making organization and has been exempted from taxation by the Inland Revenue Department.

回顧過去一年：圖片選輯

FEATURES OF 1978

暑期服務展開，電話响過不停（7月）
Volunteers are busy at work for
the "Summer Students' Service"



聖誕聯歡在一堂（12月）
Happy Christmas: Sing A Song together



黃梅時節春遊稔灣（3月）
Spring outing at Lin Bay.



美國撒瑪利亞會創辦人狄更斯小姐
（前排中立）訪問本會（11月）
Visitation of the Founder of
The Samaritans in the United
States, Miss Dickens at the
Homantin Centre (Front right
second person)

ANNUAL REPORT

1978

THE SAMARITAN BEFIENDERS

H. K.

THE SAMARITAN BEFRIENDERS HONG KONG

(I) Objectives:

- a. To prevent suicide, to help the desperate, suffering and emotionally depressed people on the basis of humanity so as to help them to regain their will to live.
- b. According to the principles of the Samaritan Befrienders to train voluntary workers to spread the spirit of Samaritan and develop the Samaritans Organization, help others to educate themselves and help the desperate and suffering people with love and patience.
- c. To provide counselling services in career, marriage, mental health as well as daily life.
- d. To promote anti-suicide campaigns through speech, lectures and publications, and assist the building up of organizations with same objectives in South East Asia and the neighbouring countries.

(II) Affiliation:

- a. Branch of the Befrienders International (Samaritan Worldwide)
- b. Member of the International Association of Suicide Prevention.
- c. Member of the Hongkong Council of Social Service.
- d. Member of the Hongkong Community Chest.

(III) Address:

Head Office : 45, Block 13, G/F., Lok Fu Estate, Kowloon.
3-370000
3-368888

English Branch: 22 Hennessy Road, 2/F., Wanchai, Hongkong.
5-278484

Homantin Centre: 48, Princess Margaret Road, Homantin, Kowloon.
3-044611

TWENTY PRINCIPLES

OF

THE SAMARITAN BEFRIENDERS

1. The Samaritans are a worldwide fellowship of volunteers dedicated to the prevention of suicide and the alleviation of the loneliness and depression that may lead to it by making their befriending immediately available at any hour of the day or night to those who feel they have no one else to turn to in their distress.
2. The befriending which the volunteer offers to the caller is the personal concern of a compassionate fellow human being who like the Samaritan in the parable, seeks simply to love him as a friend in his time of deepest need.
3. The volunteers are carefully selected for their personal qualities and natural aptitude for the work, without regard to their creed, colour, politics, age, sex or status.

4. The volunteers in each Centre recognized as a Branch of The Samaritans work under the supervision of a Director (or Chairman) and other Leaders, who are advised by consultants with medical or other professional qualifications, so that the highest standards of caring may be achieved. Consultants may also assist in the selection and preparation of volunteers and give help to clients.
5. In countries where the telephone is generally available, an easily remembered telephone number is advertised by each Branch, in addition to its address, to enable swift (and if the caller desires, anonymous) contact to be made with the minimum of effort on the part of the caller.
6. The Samaritans receive callers in person at their Centre, and invite telephone callers who seem likely to benefit to meet a Samaritan face to face. Callers are free if they wish to have contact only by telephone or by letter.
7. The Samaritans' primary and overriding concern is for those who seem to be in immediate danger of taking their own lives.
8. Samaritans engage in long-term as well as short-term prevention of suicide by befriending despairing and lonely people who do not seem to be suicidal at the time when they seek help, or who seem unlikely for conscientious or other reasons ever to commit suicide.
9. If a caller is concerned about another person, the Samaritans try to support him in his anxiety and to suggest ways of obtaining help for his friend. The Samaritans do not intrude upon persons who have not sought their help directly, unless an identified responsible person informs them of the need of someone who is too young or old or ill to ask in person, in which case they may make a tentative offer to help.
10. The Samaritans do not permit their immediate availability in cases of a suicidal emergency to be impeded by attention to cases of long-term chronic inadequacy, though callers in this category may be accepted as clients during a crisis.
11. The Samaritans do not flatter themselves that what they have to offer will be helpful to every caller. Those in charge of each Branch are responsible for using their human resources to the best advantage, and protecting them from being wasted by the grossly psychopathic or any others not capable of benefiting from befriending.
12. The Samaritans' service is non-medical. Callers requesting medical treatment may be helped to obtain this, and each Branch has at least one medical consultant, usually a psychiatrist, to advise those in charge of the Branch about such cases.
13. The Samaritans are not a trained case-work agency, and volunteers are not permitted to attempt to do in an amateur way what social workers are trained to do with professional competence.

14. The Samaritans are not a social welfare agency. They refer those who request material aid to the appropriate welfare services, except in countries which lack these.
15. The Samaritans are not a Christian Organization, except in the origin of the concept. Volunteers, whatever their original beliefs, are strictly forbidden to make any attempt to convert the callers or to exploit a caller's distress by using the opportunity to witness to the volunteer's beliefs. Callers spontaneously requesting spiritual help of a particular kind are referred, with their permission, to a representative of the appropriate body, who may or may not be a member of the organization.
16. Volunteers are normally known to callers only by their Christian names or forenames and their volunteer's identification number unless continued befriending by a chosen volunteer is arranged, when one of the persons in charge of the branch decides what other information may be given to the client concerned and whether hospitality may be offered by the volunteer in his or her home.
17. The fact that a person has sought the help of the Samaritans, and everything he has confided in them, is confidential within the organization. All communications from callers which could reasonably be regarded as of a highly secret nature, and those relating to criminal acts, are received in the strictest confidence and are revealed neither to any person outside the organization without the caller's express permission, not to persons within the organization who are not involved, except the Director. Volunteers are not permitted to accept confidences if a condition is made that not even the Director should be informed of them.
18. The caller remains at all times in charge of his own destiny and is free to reject the help that is offered and to break contact without fear of being sought out against his will, even if it is felt certain that he intends to take his own life or to commit some other act which the Samaritans would deprecate. A volunteer in contact (whether by telephone or face to face) with a caller judged to be in some danger of suicide is encouraged to seek the caller's permission for a discreet approach to be made to him subsequently to ask how he is, and to record the fact if permission is granted. In such cases, 'follow up' is clearly not against the client's will.
19. The various Branches of the Samaritans are banded together in a legally constituted Association whose Council of Management represents all the Branches and reserves to itself the appointment of the person in charge of each branch, responsible for seeing that the above-mentioned Principles are observed.
20. Only the Council may authorize departures from these Principles, for instance by permitting new Branches to offer a limited service for a period, and only the Council may from time to time revise these Principles.

THE SAMARITAN BEFRIENDERS H.K. ANNUAL REPORT 1978

1. This report concerns the work of the Samaritans from January to December 1978. It includes cases from the three centres, at Lok Fu, Wanchai, and Homantin. The Homantin Centre opened in mid-July and operated only during office hours. The statistics also include some of the more depressed cases, totalling 438, dealt with by Urban Councillor Mrs. Elliott, and as these cases were dealt with in the Homantin Office, they are included in the Homantin figures. The statistics also include the special summer service for students. (Table I)

Table I. Case Statistics for 1978

Sex	Lok Fu	Wanchai	Homantin	Special Service	Total
Male	445	181	260	1157	2043
Female	601	235	242	1213	2291
Total	1046	416	502	2370	4334

2. The number of cases dealt with increased in 1978 compared with 1977. Male cases increased from 567 to 886, or 56%; female cases increased from 634 to 1078, or 70%. Cases dealt with in the special summer service for students totalled 1561 in 1977 (male 779, female 782). In 1978, they totalled 2370 (male 1157, female 1213), an increase of 51.8%.

3. Age Analysis 1978 (Excluding the summer service for students):

Table II

Age	Sex	No.	Total	%
Under 20	Male	191	438	22
	Female	247		
21-45	Male	532	1211	62
	Female	679		
46-60	Male	94	185	9
	Female	91		
Over 60	Male	38	77	4
	Female	39		
Age Unknow	Male	31	53	3
	Female	22		

From this table it is clear that most of the depressed people were within the age group 21-45, a total of 1211, that is 62% of all cases. Those under 20 totalled 438, the second highest group, that is 22%.

4. Causes

Table III Causes of Calling (problems faced by clients)

ITEMS	M	F	TOTAL	%
Education	80	83	163	6.6
Marital	50	152	202	8.2
Family-Human Relation	80	170	250	10.1
Sex	53	15	68	2.8
Sickness	46	32	78	3.2
Psychiatric	101	110	211	8.2
Debts	41	14	55	2.2
Poverty	128	66	194	7.9
Depression	79	130	209	8.5
Gambling Losses	7	3	10	0.4
Drug	10	7	17	0.7
Employment	89	36	125	5.1
Housing	63	96	159	6.4
Legal Problems	78	23	101	4.1
Child Abuse	2	1	3	0.1
Rape	1	20	21	0.9
Enquiries	34	37	71	2.9
Love	101	226	327	13.2
Pregnancy	2	47	49	2
Alcoholic	8	13	21	0.9
Hoax	4	7	11	0.4
Crimes	9	2	11	0.4
Others	59	51	110	4.5
TOTAL	1125	1341	2466	100

According to the table, the most frequent cause of depression was love affairs, a total of 327, or 13% of the cases. If marriage problems and pregnancy are added in the same category, the total would amount to 578 or 23.4 %. As Hong Kong has become more sound economically, the emotional problems of the people have increased. It is hoped that notice will be taken of this trend, and that more marriage guidance and sex education will be introduced.

Human and family relations are next in frequency, totalling 250, or 10.1 %. This may be the result of bad living conditions, causing friction between families and neighbours, and widening the generation gap in the home.

Psychiatric and depressed cases have become a serious problem in Hong Kong. According to the researchers of this problem it has been claimed that one in every nine persons has psychiatric problems. If this is true we should ask ourselves what kind of world we live in. During 1978 we dealt with 211 cases of this kind, that is 8.5 %. If we add the depressed persons, the total is 420 or 17.0%, a frightening figure.

Concerning debts and poverty, we dealt with 194 cases, or 7.9%. There were 55 cases of debt, 2.25%. Because the general economic situation is sound, people are inclined to ignore the fact that poverty does still exist. The truth is that because of the high cost of land, prices have been inflated and money devalued. This burden has been shifted on to the shoulders of those at the lower end of the wage scale. Most cases of debt and poverty were due to the fact that wages did not cover expenditure. "When the hand stops working the mouth stops eating."

Consequently people are attracted to try their luck at the gambling centres which seem to invite them in. Of course we Chinese all know that "If you gamble ten times you will lose nine times." But that is the only hope for some people to cope with their problems. If they lose they borrow from the finance companies or loan sharks. This fact is proved by the number of finance companies that have mushroomed everywhere in Hong Kong. According to our case studies, some low wage earners and housewives pledge their identity cards or bank cards to borrow two or three thousand dollars. They use this money gambling and lose it, so they have to borrow again from Peter to pay Paul. Each time they get deeper and deeper in the mire of debt. Some borrow from as many as 20 different companies, running up debts of even \$100,000. The result of this can only be tragedy. Recently a situation like this led to the murder of a loan shark by his debtor. Sometimes notices can be seen posted in the streets to blackmail debtors into paying their debts. Some loan sharks force housewives to make money from prostitution to repay their debts. This is one source of crime.

Housing problems have also brought in 159 cases, or 6.4 %. Housing is one of Hong Kong's most serious problems. People cannot pay the exorbitant rents; or they cannot find a room to rent; some have to rent

a cage, a wired-in bunk. Miserable, crowded living conditions create disharmony. Rape and incest result from living in close proximity. In fact, it is no joke to say that housing has created most of Hong Kong's social problems. Therefore when the Government decided recently to cut down on the housing programme to relieve the economic pressures caused by the building boom, it was a great loss of face that the Governor's promise for housing was broken.

Those who came to us seeking employment numbered 125, or 5.1%. This kind of problem is difficult to assist, because most of the clients are over 45 years of age and without special skills. Some are slightly handicapped. There is no proper unemployment scheme in Hong Kong to take care of such people when they are older. We are happy to hear the news this year that the Social Welfare Department intends to improve its services to the aged, but we are still much too far from our target.

Rape cases numbered 21, 0.9%. One of these was a homosexual rape. Our community has been taking special notice of this problem, and the Samaritans were one of the main sponsoring bodies in the movement for the protection of rape victims. This movement, supported by the Hong Kong Council of Women and other organisations has already shown some results, in the reduction of rape cases and in the better protection of rape victims. It is a warning to the culprits. We hope that this service will be expanded in the future, and that the problem will be further tackled through social education.

Alcoholics numbered 21 cases in the Wanchai Centre, eight of them male and thirteen female. Most of the clients were Europeans. Alcoholism is a serious factor in crime as well as suicide in Europe, but in an oriental community like Hong Kong it is not so common.

Hoax calls numbered eleven in the Wanchai Centre, but the other centres did not record the hoax calls. In fact, some people do deliberately make hoax calls to disturb our work. We hope that anyone who does so will remember that we have a life line to save life and that they will stop this nuisance.

5. Special Summer Service for Students, 1978

From the table it will be seen that 2370 cases were dealt with (1157 male and 1213 female). In 1977 there were 1468. Thus 1978 showed an increase of 902 cases. Of these young people, 21 were seriously depressed, and 128 others were depressed to some extent. We sympathised with them, encouraged and advised them, and believe that they were all strengthened to face their problems.

We again ask the Education Department to consider ways of satisfying some of the needs of these young people. They want to study and this is a human right. It is the duty of good government to make this possible. For example, 667 young people wanted to repeat Form 5 but could not find school places. Does that mean that they are not entitled to another

Table IV Classification of Special Student Service

ITEMS		M	F	TOTAL	%
Evening Secondary School		39	72	111	4.68
F. 1 to F. 4		10	21	31	1.3
Commercial School		22	88	110	4.65
Repeated F.5		326	341	667	28.15
Medical Trainee		39	25	44	1.85
Matriculation		338	287	625	26.37
Post Secondary School		65	50	115	4.85
Oversea Studies		27	16	43	1.82
For Employment		84	104	188	7.94
Emotional Problem	Ordinary	67	61	128	5.4
	Serious	13	8	21	0.88
Requested by Parents/Friends		27	34	61	2.57
Others		120	106	226	9.54
TOTAL		1157	1213	2370	100

Chance? How cruel that is to young people! 625 others passed their examination but did not manage to find places in Form 6 because there are not sufficient Form 6 places in Hong Kong schools. Besides, the entrance requirements for these few places are harsh, and the fees are too high. These young people are not wanting to commit a crime but are simply wanting to continue their studies. Why should they not be encouraged to do so?

6. Conclusion

Another year has passed. Our organisation has now been in existence for 19 years and it is clear from statistics that cases increase year by year. However, that does not necessarily mean success. It could just as

well mean that our social problems in Hong Kong and our Samaritan responsibilities have increased. Of course we hope one day that our work will decrease, because that would mean that Hong Kong's social problems are fewer. But that will take care, and warmth, and love. So we call upon all Samaritans and all people of good-will to unite and march forward against our enemies, misery and suicide.

Notes on the Needs of the Hong Kong Samaritans

1. Because our work is a 24-hour voluntary service, we receive no fees from clients. We need many volunteers willing to offer love, patience and time to the work. We are still short of volunteers to meet the needs of our services. We invite people of any race with this high motivation to join us by applying to enter the Samaritan training courses, either in Chinese or English.
2. Because of financial difficulties we have only two salaried helpers, an administrative secretary and a clerk. We hope that if finances allow, we can increase the number of full time workers and thus further improve our efficiency.
3. Also because of financial difficulty, we cannot engage experts to research our work. We have many good materials collected throughout these 19 years, but to research and publish them requires money and personnel.
4. Some clients in special circumstances need financial assistance. For example they may need a place to sleep, a good meal, or some travelling expenses. These are needs that cannot wait until we contact some Government Department. In the circumstances, most of our volunteers use their own money as well as their time to solve this kind of problem. We appreciate what the volunteers have done at great sacrifice, but in future we hope to have a special fund for this purpose.
5. Finally, we should like to express appreciation to all who have in any way helped the Samaritans by gifts, donations, advice, or in any other way during 1978.

***** END *****

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS OF 1978



Welcome Dinner Party of the Founder of The Samaritans, The Rev. Chad Varah (OBE).

January

1. The Chairman, Mr. Andrew Tu was invited to present a talk at the Diocesan Girl's School.
2. Our volunteer worker was invited to present a talk at the United Christian Hospital.

March

1. The Samaritan Newsletter was first published as a bridge to communicate with outside agencies and introduce our service.
2. Two Samaritans Nos. 74 and 194 from the English Speaking Centre were invited to the meeting of the International Women Day.
3. The Chairman, Mr. Andrew Tu was invited to the panel discussion of the Education Green Paper and a talk at the Polytechnic.
4. Two Samaritans: Mr. Wong Tak Man and Mr. Ng Yung were invited to present a talk about "Suicide" at the Caritas Centre.

April

1. Mr. Andrew Tu and Mr. Wong Tak Man were invited to present a talk at the True Light Secondary School.
2. Mr. Andrew Tu, was invited to present an article on "Counselling Service on Suicide Prevention", by the Quarterly Digest of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.
3. Volunteer Training Course of

the English Speaking Centre on progress.

4. Volunteer Training Course of the Chinese Speaking Centre on progress.

May

1. Mr. Andrew Tu and Mrs. Elsie Elliott were invited to participate at the "International Symposium on Suicide Prevention and Thanatology" in Tokyo.
2. Farewell Party for Vice-Chairman Sister Rose Duchesne.

June

1. Visitation of "Readers' Digest".

July

1. Homantin Centre starts operation at during office hours.
2. Visit of the founder of the Samaritans, Mr. Chad Varah.
3. Visit of the Hong Kong International School and 15 psychologists.

August

1. Our medical consultant, Dr. Edith Waldmann is on-duty on every Thursday morning at Homantin Centre.
2. Mr. Andrew Tu was invited to present a talk on "Suicide and Attempted Suicide" at the Castle Peak Hospital.
3. Mr. Ng Yung, Mr. Wong Tak Man, Mr. Lo Cheong Ming and Miss Lau Suk Fan were invited

to present an introductory speech on "Summer Student Service" in programs at the Commercial Radio, Radio-TV Hong Kong and RTV.

October

1. Our members, Mr. Ng Yung and Mr. Wong Tak Man were invited to give a special talk on "Suicide Prevention" by the Hongkong University.
2. Mr. Lau Kwong Tsing was invited for an interview on our work for rape victims by the T.V. program "Police Call" of Radio Hongkong.
3. "Ladies and Home Pictorial Fortnightly" visited us and introduced our work in their magazine.

November

1. By participating in the "Social Welfare Exhibition" organized by the Hongkong Council of Social Service our scope of service was publicized.
2. Miss Dickens, the founder of Samaritans of the States visited us.

December

1. Mr. Andrew Tu, our Chairman was invited for a panel discussion by the Psychology Society of Hongkong University.
2. A Christmas Party was held for all our voluntary workers.



1978

ANNUAL REPORT

by

THE SAMARITAN BEFRIENDERS

HONG KONG