

Funerals Vocabulary List

Please note that this list contains some items that are used in Buddhist contexts and are not appropriate for use by Christians. At the end of the list are some suggestions for further study related to Japanese funerals and the language used in them.

納棺式	のうかんしき	ceremony of placing body in the coffin
葬儀委員長	そうぎいいんちょう	master of ceremonies (lit. chair of funeral committee)
喪主	もしゅ	chief mourner
棺	ひつぎ	coffin
(棺の) 覆い	(ひつぎの) おおい	coffin cover
棺台	ひつぎだい	coffin stand
御花料	おはなりょう	gift of money given by Christian mourners
香典	こうでん	gift of money from non Christian mourners (lit. incense money)
数珠	じゅず	Buddhist rosary, string of beads
故人	こじん	the deceased
故人略歴	こじんりゃくれき	the deceased's history
故人略歴朗読者	こじんりゃくれき ろうどくしゃ	reader of deceased's history
前夜式	ぜんやしき	wake (Christian)
通夜	つや	wake (Buddhist)
告別式	こくべつしき	funeral
葬式	そうしき	funeral
献花	けんか	placing of a flower in the coffin (at a Christian funeral this is done in place of offering incense)
焼香	しょうこう	offering of incense (by Buddhist mourners)
司式者	ししきしゃ	leader of service

霊柩車	れいきゆうしゃ	hearse
死亡証明書	しばうしょうめいしょ	death certificate
記念礼拝	きねんれいはい	Christian memorial service
法事	ほうじ	Buddhist memorial services
弔辞	ちょうじ	message of condolence, memorial address
喪服	もふく	mourning clothes
奏楽者	そうがくしゃ	pianist, organist, musician (in church service) (in church service)
引伸ばし写真	ひきのばししゃしん	large photo
死亡通知状	しばうつうちじょう	notification of death
会葬者名簿	かいそうしゃめいぼ	list of mourners
監督	かんとく	manager, overseer
火葬	かそう	cremation
火葬前の納めの式	かそうまえのおさめのしき	ceremony before the cremation
埋葬式	まいそうしき	burial
納骨	のうこつ	laying the ashes to rest
納骨式	のうこつしき	ceremony for putting the ashes to rest
納骨堂	のうこつどう	mausoleum
葬儀社	そうぎしゃ	funeral directors, undertakers
葬儀屋	そうぎや	funeral directors, undertakers
花輪	はなわ	wreath

- For a description of a Japanese funeral and its meaning written by a Japanese in Japanese but with an accompanying explanation in English, go to <http://www.jpn-miyabi.com/vol.7/funeral-jp.html>
- Word of Life Press (いのちのことば社) has an excellent DVD called 葬儀と日本の宗教行事 (そうぎとにほんのしゅうきょうぎょうじ) – ‘Funerals and Japanese Religious customs’. It is aimed at helping Japanese Christians know how to behave in non Christian religious contexts but is a great tool for both for language study and for learning more about Japanese culture.

「葬儀」と「日本の宗教行事」



DVD

Price : 5,040 yen

葬儀 48min

日本の宗教行事 40min.

いのちのことば社 <http://www.wlpm.or.jp/>

'Soogi'

This is 48 minutes long and divided into 4 parts. The first 2 are only 15 minutes long altogether and for language study form excellent 'bites' of language to focus on.

Part 1 deals with the Christian view of life and death - 'kiristokyoo no shiseikan' (キリスト教の死生観). The explanation is clear and concise.

Part 2 What a Christian should do when attending a Buddhist funeral is also very helpful in explaining the meaning of expressions and actions used by non Christians. For example, 'kooden' (the giving of money), 'juzu' (beads) and 'shooko' (the offering of incense) are explained and what the Christian should do in their place. Expressions like 'goshuushoosama deshita' are explained ('shuu' = 'rei' and shoo' = 'itamu' implying a negative attitude to death) and suggestions as to what may be said instead are made. These practical tips are all shown through role play and filming of actual funerals.

Part 3 deals with a Christian funeral in practice - kirisutokyoo soogi no jissai (葬儀の実際).

Part 4 deals with details such as cost of various aspects of a funeral and how a Christian from a non Christian family can prepare a will stating his or her wish to have a Christian funeral.

'Nihon no Shuukyoo Gyooji'

This is excellent for language study (with the exception of the summary at the end of parts 2-4) including reading practice. The cultural understanding of the background of various Japanese customs explained in the DVD is a must for Christian missionaries though the content is aimed at Japanese Christians. It is only 40 minutes long but a lot of important

information is conveyed in this short time.

The content is built round skits of a Japanese couple and Rebecca, a missionary kid born in Japan. The husband has only just become a Christian and is still struggling to relate his faith to various aspects of Japanese life. His wife has been a Christian for 15 years. Giving various explanations are Pastor Katsumoto Masami, author of 'Nihon no Shuukyoo Gyooji ni doo taioo suru ka' and Pastor Matsuoka, a former Buddhist priest. The video consists of 5 parts - again helpful 'bites' for language study. **Part 1 Nihon no Shuukyoo Gyooji no Tokushoku** divides practices into 2 kinds - 'nenkangyooji' and jinseigirei', and then draws out 4 principles for evaluating whether these customs are idolatrous or not.

The 4 principles are:

1. Examining the origin of the custom
2. Deciding if the custom still has religious overtones today
3. Considering the custom in the light of the Bible
4. Asking oneself whether or not it is a good testimony to follow a particular custom even if it doesn't have religious overtones

Various examples are examined in the light of these principles. **Part 2** deals with New Year customs, **Part 3** with Obon, **Part 4** with Birth and Growth (eg hana matsuri, shichi go san etc) and **Part 5** with Buddhist Hooji.