

"Lighten" Up

by Melanie Loyd

We cannot be reminded too often of this unchanging truth; people call a funeral home or cemetery because someone is dead . . . or someone is expected to be dead. No remission, recovery or rescinding. During these times in life, often families find themselves in dark, uncertain, unclear circumstances and existence.

In darkness, people grope around for something to hang on to and grab the first thing they touch. Sometimes what they touch is what they've heard or what someone else has decided or offers. These can come in the form of advertising, pre-arranged "direct" or well-intended helpers from an organization . . .

What they need in these times is a professional, an expert, a specialist. They need en-"light"-enment", clarity, and perspective. They need the "night-vision" of someone who understands and can offer them sight, truth and hope. This sounds like a tall order, but it is the fabric of a true funeral professional. People in this field clear the path every day, for every family, every time.

May I offer synonyms for light? Understanding, choices, solutions, compassion, respite, vision, creativity, answers, energy, encouragement, warmth, empathy, humor, relief, interest, sincerity, belief, cheerfulness, patience, options, resourcefulness, gracious authority, assurance, efficiency.

Perhaps you can add to the list. Where and how, are you making "light" of these situations?