

Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling, is one of the important starting points for the **Hakka** people in the New Territories far back as to several centuries ago. Since Hakka people were **late comers**, they had to face strong and often rich occupants who were not so friendly and had to accept a location often less convenient and poor.

In such situation, **protection** is one thing the Hakka people vitally needed. From the architectural format of their habitation one will notice the strong emphasis on security, certainly with some sacrifice for convenience. So they built enclosed walled villages.

Another thing Hakka people will bear in mind is the expansion and continuation of their race. This idea of **expansion** is materialized in their custom of sending out male members to work overseas or shifting from agricultural work to cultural or governmental career. The contact with Westerners and often missionaries is another means of getting protection and expansion.

The **continuation** of their family and race can be seen in the choice of brides for their males. The potentiality for breeding and hardworking is one of the most important criteria for marriage matching. The symbolic way to express the continuation of the race can also be seen from the funeral customs. Immortality takes the form of ancestral veneration and the keeping of their bones.

I have two articles in Chinese written for other occasion which might be helpful if you wish to know something more about the Hakkas and the Church in HK.

1) 香港客家村落中的天主教

<http://humanum.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~lha/writings/hakka.doc>

2) 客家人與天主教的相遇

<http://humanum.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~lha/writings/YimTinTze.doc>

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