

Idiom by Lon Yan

守望相助

shou3 wang4 xiang1 zhu4

A motorcyclist risked his life to guide a schoolboy back to safety as he walked in the middle of a busy road in Tseung Kwan O. The boy had been walking on the fast lane of a three-lane road after he missed his school bus and proceeded to walk to school.

The motorcyclist saw the boy walking on the fast lane of the 50km/h, three-lane road. He quickly stopped his motorcycle, parked it on the side of the road, waited until it was safe before grabbing the boy to a safe location.

It was later established that the 16-year-old attends a special school. A video of the incident was posted online, and netizens hailed the motorcyclist, surnamed Wong, as a hero,

Wong said he was on his way to work at the time but did not think whether he

would be late as the boy's safety was more important.

Netizens praised Wong and hoped that other people would follow his example and help each other to unleash the "Hong Kong spirit" which can be described by the idiom "守望相助" (*shou3 wang4 xiang1 zhu4*).

"守" (*shou3*) is "to guard," "to keep watch," "望" (*wang4*) "to look over," "to expect," "守望" (*shou3 wang4*), together, means "to keep watch," "to keep guard," "相助" (*xiang1 zhu4*) is "to help one another," "to come to somebody's help." Literally, "守望相助" (*shou3 wang4 xiang1 zhu4*) is "to keep watch and help one another."

The idiom means just that – "to keep watch and defend one another," "to join forces to defend against external aggressors," "mutual help and protection."

Terms containing the character "助" (*zhu4*) include:

幫助 (*bang1 zhu4*) – to help; to assist

助人 (*zhu4 ren2*) – help others

自助 (*zi4 zhu4*) – help oneself; self service

自助餐 (*zi4 zhu4 can1*) – a buffet dinner