This week I visited a hospice. Patients who are suffering from illnesses that cannot be cured and will lead to death are treated there. I met a patient who was dying from cancer. The doctors believed that it was unlikely he had much longer to live. Was he afraid to be dying? I talked to him.

“I actually feel very peaceful now and am not afraid,” said the man. I was a little surprised because I believed that you go to hospital to be treated to get better and live longer. “Do you really? But aren’t you scared?” Then, the man said with a smile, “When the doctors first told me that I had this serious sickness and that there was nothing they could do to save me, I was really scared. I was scared for myself but especially for my wife and family. I did not want to tell them. I did not want to believe it but there was nothing I could do. It was difficult for everyone but we had to accept it. After that it was a lot easier.”

His wife didn’t look all that afraid, either. She said, “Before he became sick, we worried and argued about the smallest things. Now, we appreciate every moment we have together.” Then, I realized that a hospice gives patients the chance to spend their time well and say goodbye to their families and loved ones. I think he is very brave.

He knows he only has a short time left to be with his family, and he is really taking advantage of the time he has.

I wanted to know more about hospices. One of the doctors told me more about their purposes. “Our main goal is to stop the pain. We have a great team. It includes doctors, nurses, social workers, volunteers and the families of the patients. We all try to make the patient feel comfortable. We cannot make people feel wonderful but we do the best we can to try and give them a better quality of life,” said the doctor. “We treat our patients in many ways. Medicines to remove the pain are very important, but other ways can be very good too. Usually a patient will have a lot of psychological and spiritual stress. When people are near the end of their lives they often ask themselves a lot of questions like, “What was the meaning of my life?” or “Is there a life after death?” If the patient wants help answering these questions, we do our best to provide someone for him or her to talk to. These spiritual questions are very important for many patients who are near the end of their lives.”

The doctors believed that extending the lives of patients was not the only way to help them: it is important to make the suffering patients feel better, and
this is another way of helping them. I felt that they were providing a very important service at the hospice. They allow the patients and their families to say goodbye to each other in a caring and peaceful place.

(注) hospice = ホスピス patient = 患者 suffer from = ～ = ～を患う
lead to = ～をもたらす scared = 飴がって accept = ～を受け入れる
argue = ～を議論する appreciate = ～をありがたく思う
realize = ～とわかる take advantage of = ～ = ～を利用する
include = ～を含む social worker = ソーシャルワーカー
make ~ feel … = ～に…と感じさせる comfortable = 快適な
quality = 質 psychological = 心理的な spiritual = 精神的な
answering these questions = これらの質問に答える際に
provide = ～を与える extend = ～を延ばす
allow ~ to … = ～が…できるようにする

(1) 下線部①を和訳しなさい。（15点）

(3) 下線部③の理由を次のように表すとき、空所に適する語句を書きなさい。（6点）
[ ] とわかっているから。

(4) 本文の内容に合うように、次の文の空所に入れるのに最も適当なものを1つ選び、記号で答えなさい。（4点）

The doctors at a hospice [ ]

ア try to improve the patient’s quality of life
イ can only give medicines to treat the patients
ウ remove the patient’s spiritual stress with medicines
エ answer all of the questions the patients ask

(5) 本文の内容に合うように、次の文の空所に入れるのに最も適当な3語の英語を、本文中から抜き出しなさい。（3点）

The hospice allow the patients and their families to ( ) ( ) ( ) each other.