



Yearly report 2014

Dear Members,

I gladly present to you the third annual report of our association lifecircle and the connected Eternal Spirit Foundation.

Not only life itself is moving on constantly, but also the circumstances are in constant change. We all have to remain flexible, if we want to move forward. Our cooperation with our new accountant Mr Straumann is very satisfying and evolving to our satisfaction, though at the same time I have to tell you that there has been a change in our office situation:

Mrs Sophie Haesen took up her studies again to become a doctor. That takes up a lot of her time, and together with looking after her family, she decided that she will only have the capacity in the near future to support our association as a translator. We regret her decision, we all were very fond of her good work and her way of looking after our patients with compassion. We are very fortunate that Mrs Beatrice Zurbrügg has been able to take on this work in a very competent way. Mrs Zurbrügg looks after all our member's files and documentations, helps members with the questions concerning an assisted voluntary death (AVD), takes care of people who want to join our association, and therefore takes over a good part of the overtime I had to work to look after these chores also. Mrs Zurbrügg has been in charge of AVD's together with me, she therefore can competently give information to our members concerning this too. I am looking forward to a long lasting teamwork with Mrs Zurbrügg. According to her own statements she finds fulfilment and satisfaction in working within our organisations. Besides working for lifecircle and Eternal Spirit, she also works for the Swiss national transport company „SBB“, travelling in the trains, helping the passengers. So you might meet her personally when you are taking a train travelling in Switzerland.

The number of our members has again increased substantially this past year. We also had the pleasure of welcoming quite a few life-time members, showing us perfect confidence and trust in our association. Besides new memberships from Swiss citizens, many foreigners, first of all people from France, have joined our association. We want to thank every single member, and offer our help and experience to add to life's quality and to help in case of illness or handicap, but also to respect the member's wish for a self determined decision concerning his/her end of life.



Besides the general assembly the members of lifecircle have been invited to two further events. In the first half of the year there was an information's event about the Living Will and self determination at the end of life. The second event was a podiums-discussion between a very well known doctor working in intensive care Prof. Charles Scheidegger, the priest Ludwig Hesse and Dr. Erika Preisig, organized and moderated by Mr. Ryff, member of the CVP-party Switzerland.

Our organization supported the association „SEOP“ in 2014 financially. SEOP is an organisation working in the canton of Basel-Land in special care for palliative treatment at home, at the end of life. Lifecircle also supported „Insieme“ a day-care centre for disabled people in Basel.

Furthermore we have the possibility to lend out an electric wheelchair to our members. Should there be a request, please get in contact with our secretary Mrs. Zurbrügg (info@lifecircle.ch).

Early in 2014 our treasurer Markus Lüthi and Dr. Erika Preisig took a 14 day timeout to write up a statistic concerning the timespan Mrs Preisig worked as a conciliar-doctor at Dignitas. The aim of this very time consuming study was to make visible from which countries people come for assisted dying, also what professions they have had, which gender they belong to, how old they were, and which illnesses they had. This elaborate and interesting study should have been published by a medical journal. Unfortunately this was not possible. Therefore we would like to make it accessible on our homepage to interested members.

Also the book: „Dad, you are allowed to die, a physician's plea for assisted voluntary death“ was finalized early in 2014 and printed in English and in German. It can be ordered on the website only www.lifecircle.ch . Within this book Dr. Erika Preisig writes about her reasons for the support of assisted voluntary death. Our member, the priest Mr Kohler, has written the entry to the book, and we like to thank him here again for his precious words.

With our support, a German Filmmaker (director and cameraman), Mr Andreas Von Hören, made a movie-documentary wherein the decision of an old couple is shown. After 59 years of marriage (being in their nineties) they wanted to end their lives together. This very impressive document can also be ordered on our website. On the 8th of May the movie had its premiere. It has been shown in a theatre in Berlin with following discussion, where Dr. Erika Preisig was also present and part of the podium. The event



was visited by nearly 500 people. http://www.medienprojekt-wuppertal.de/site.php?site=v_187e

A further project last year was a theatre-production where a theatre-team from the ETH imitated „hard suicide-methods” countered by an assisted voluntary death (our deceased member on screen), the production’s aim is asking about the reasons for a planned suicide : <http://markusundmarkus.at/index.php/stuecke.html>

We also had visitors and gave information and interviews personally and by telephone to the following countries: France, Italy, England, Germany, Poland, Norway, Belgium, Japan, USA, Canada. We attended the world-Congress of all Right-to-die-organisations in Chicago September 2014. There we held speeches, and exchanged our experiences. We also travelled to several countries to help with the legalisation of the assisted voluntary death.

Looking onward to 2015 / 16 :

Since we have elections, this general assembly will be a special one. You most likely read in my documentation and probably also in the newspapers that I am fully involved in the fight for legalisation in our surrounding countries. One of the main goals of our organisation and the foundation is to end the so-called „death-tourism“ and render it unnecessary. We will only reach this if every person deciding to do so will have the possibility and the right to die in his or her own country. The more countries are legalizing AVD, the less people will have to travel to Switzerland. Then I will have more time to look after lifecircle’s goals, and I am very much looking forward to this! To make sure that the organisation lifecircle can follow up on it’s aim to propagate a betterment of life quality when elderly people are becoming lonely and are in need of care, although I am overburdened with the legalisation, I would like to pass on the presidency of lifecircle to a member with the capacity and energy to further lifecircle’s aims. This is a work that is done on a voluntary basis, but expenses will be compensated. Events of lifecircle will have to be organised, ideas will be thought of, for example how lifecircle can spend the money sensibly and according to our organisation’s statutes, for example for palliative care, alternative living-situations for elderly, and for suicide prevention.

With my best regards,

Mrs Dr. med. Erika Preisig, president of the organisation lifecircle and the Eternal Spirit Foundation