



Newsletter

Dear Members

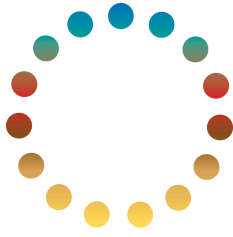
I am writing this newsletter from Canada, while on holidays. At the moment I am visiting with Cindy, the wife of one of our dear members. Cindy's husband died in peace in Switzerland. I think he should have had the chance to die this way in his home, overlooking the mountains, the sea, and the peaceful nature he loved so much. I am grateful that he and his wife offered to us to stay here a few days, but I do know what we are fighting for: Not only that everybody can die in peace at the time and date he/she chooses, but also that everyone can die at home, and not in a foreign country.

Canada legalized assisted dying two months ago. This was only made possible by court cases raised by incurably ill Canadians and their families, very brave people who did not fear going to court for their right to die. I am sure that we will get legalization of assisted voluntary death (AVD) in other countries too. However, this will only happen if members also take legal measures in their own countries so that pressure will be put on governments to change the laws. Should these legal cases be rejected in some countries, they must be brought to the highest court, and then to the international Human Rights Commission. If we get to the point where we have several cases going to the international Human Rights Commission at the same time, that will bring more attention to this important matter. So I will encourage members to launch court cases in their home country to change the laws in support of AVD the way Canada has. We are also encouraging lawyers who are interested in this important cause to offer their support.

I am amazed that we have problems with accepting the right to die in Switzerland too. I am especially surprised that Psychiatrists, Gerontologists and Neurologists are refusing to deal with wishes to die. In Basel we are having problems with some of the clinics that are specialised in dementia. Their main doctors in charge have forbidden all doctors of the clinics from providing any reports about mental capacity in cases where patients wish to seek AVD. As the AVD organizations need the judgment of a specialist in cases of diagnosed dementia, the AVD will not be possible for people suffering from this illness. We cannot accept this. So Exit Switzerland and "lifecircle" will have a meeting with the main doctors responsible. We hope to find a solution, not by having court cases against hospitals of Switzerland (which certain newspapers eluded to), but by talking together.

Since we had the General Reunion in May, we have done a lot of work:

- We are happy to have opened the wonderful clinic apartment in Liestal within the Industrial Area. There we can work in peace, providing AVD for members. The new space also provides a place for the family members when they have to wait for the investigations to be completed after each AVD.
- We are planning to have a day of "Open House" at the apartment in Liestal on the ninth of September this year. We will provide information about our work within the Association and the Foundation. Also non-members will be welcome to meet us in the apartment to hear about our work. People who live around the area must have the opportunity to hear what we are doing and why we are doing it.



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- We want to host workshops in the clinic apartment to provide information on advance directives (living wills) and also wills.
- As decided at the General Reunion, we have given a loan of 50'000.- SFr - over five years - to the "Genossenschaft Chreemer Kari", a cooperative in Biel-Benken. The cooperative will be building apartments for elderly people wanting to live together and support each other. Should someone know a similar project needing sponsorship, he/she may apply for this to the association.

We would like to remind you again that we have electric wheelchairs, hand wheelchairs, walkers and other aids to lend to our members. Should you be in need for something like this, you may ask "lifecircle" by mail or letter.

Many people have seen the film "Simon's Choice", and we received a lot of new members throughout the world as a result of the release of this documentary. A Swiss TV-company also translated the film into German, and we had many very good responses as a result. Personally, I have been recognised all over Switzerland by people having seen the movie. This has made for many very interesting talks. I do like to discuss this topic with everybody interested.

Our new secretary Corinne Bohn is very busy, and I am thankful to have her doing a very good job. You will get to know her if you need to contact her (mail@lifecircle.ch) and she will also take the phone on Mondays and Thursdays on 0041 79 266 40 45.

Last but not least our project "Himmelried" is doing well. The owner of the house will move in towards the end of this year. Before this some adjustments for handicapped people are taking place. The escalator will be one of the most expensive renewals. Ruedi Habegger is very much looking forward to move into the house and to have guests from abroad then and when. Members are invited to spend a few days with Ruedi Habegger to get to know our work and to have some days of rest and peace. Please note that no AVD will take place in Himmelried. We are not allowed to do AVD in the residence area, AVD will take place in Liestal only. Should you like to know more about the project Himmelried, you may write a personal email to Ruedi Habegger (mail@lifecircle.ch).



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Donations to this project are furthermore very welcome and can be transferred to the following account:

lifecircle "Haus Himmelried"

P.O. Box 29

CH-4105 Biel-Benken

Bank: Raiffeisenbank Basel, CH

IBAN: CH15 8148 6000 0076 6589 1

SWIFT/BIC-Code: RAIFCH22E86

Total address of the Bank:

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St. Jakobs-Strasse 7

CH-4052 Basel

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Now I do wish you all the very best, kind regards

Dr. med. Erika Preisig