

SPEECH GIVEN AT THE WORLD HOPSICE PALLIATIVE CARE CELEBRATION AT KLERKSDORP

Dr Johann Oberholzer

Honourable chairperson, ladies and gentlemen:

I thank you for the opportunity to share with you.

In my early years as a clinician I worked in the hospital scenario of the mining industry, then moved to private practice, 27 years in Vryburg and the past eleven in Klerksdorp.

I joined Rotary International as a member in 1974 and when I moved to Klerksdorp I joined the Rotary club of Klerksdorp and through Rotary I met Joan de Jong, the ceo of Hospice in Klerksdorp.

Joan convinced my wife to join hospice and she did the training course as a counselling caregiver. Her contact with Hospice in said capacity gave her an opportunity to grow spiritually and enriched her life. She was well equipped to handle her own terminal cancer when it was diagnosed three years ago.

We as family had the support of Klerksdorp Hospice in a wonderful way and I would like to use this opportunity to publicly thank the Hospice team for the kind and friendly support we received from them.

However I would like to stress the fact that the training that Rietjie received from Hospice as a counselling caregiver, gave her a deep insight into the dilemma that we as human beings experience when we are diagnosed with a terminal disease. It gave her the tools to handle the crisis and it assisted us all in acceptance of our human frailty and our human spirituality. In a dignified and compassionate way we could help and assist her to cross the threshold to the higher worlds.

I would like to urge and recommend to you all to take the opportunity to qualify as Hospice councillors and caregivers, Hospice is there for all of us, it is there for you!

I thank you for your attention.