

## Welcome address at the International Hospice Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2005 – in Denmark



During the hours of this day voices are heard all over the world for the benefit of terminally ill and dying people and their relatives. We are actually participating in the biggest simultaneous song - and concert event in the world.



In honour of the occasion **archbishop Desmond Tutu** says:  
*"Every year, millions of people around the world living with a terminal illness suffer unnecessary pain and distress, either unaware of or unable to access the care they need. Good quality hospice and palliative care, which aims to meet the needs of the whole person, can and does provide an answer. This is an issue that affects literally everybody on this planet – we would all like our lives to end peacefully and comfortably." ( end of quote )*

Via a number of donations the Hospice Fund Denmark has made it possible for us in Denmark to participate in the gigantic international arrangement: **Voices for Hospices** for the first time.

The day is for everybody who merely thinks about or who is directly involved in hospice and palliative care somewhere in the world, either as a victim of a life threatening disease, as a professional caregiver or as a volunteer.

The day stems from a partnership with Voices for Hospice, which was established in England back in 1991.

**During the years an international cooperation has been created across oceans and national boundaries.** The common purpose is to improve and strengthen the effort, develop knowledge and support those areas still lacking optimal conditions and resources to provide palliative care. Regardless of where in the world people suffer and face the end of life, terminally ill and dying people need and have a right to adequate palliative care.



In about 60 countries, from India through Africa to the whole of Europe, palliative care effort is in focus today. Many events are transmitted worldwide via BBC, regrettably not from Denmark this year; however, many media in Denmark cover individual arrangements and it is also possible to follow the events on the home page [www.worldday.dk](http://www.worldday.dk)

**Music and poetry relay messages with intensity and depth, which touch our feelings.**

Therefore we relay the message in Denmark through music and song from some of the most talented artists in this country and from hymns and songs sung by all of you gathered in the churches today.

The palliative care and treatment was founded by the pioneer of modern hospice philosophy: Dame Cicely Saunders, St. Christopher's Hospice in London.



The theme of the International Hospice Day 2005 is carried over the whole world today in the quote from Dame Cicely Saunders:

**“You matter because you are you**

**- and you matter to the last moment of your life”**

Dame Cicely Saunders suffered from an incurable disease herself and passed away quietly at St. Christopher's Hospice in London on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2005, at the age of 87. She dedicated her entire life to terminally ill and dying people all over the world.

**All honour to the memory of the legend Dame Cicely Saunders !**

**Life** is to be,  
to be used, to carry,  
work and serve  
in the honour of the Lord.

**Life** is to struggle  
to bear, to suffer,  
never to deny  
what the heart dares know.

**Life** is to tame  
the ravaging winds,  
strengthen and shelter  
one's soul from the blind.

**Life** is to long,  
to tarry, to need,  
have faith in the promise  
that doubt shall disperse.

**Life** is to build  
one's hope securely:  
The grace of Christ,  
our eternal happiness.

(By Richard Lundholm Lauritzen , 1919-2005)

**May everybody have a good time and again – welcome to the concert!**

**A big thank you to all those who made it possible!**