

Dear Friends,

In this year 2009 we will exchange experiences and stories about the theme “change”
We are looking forward to seeing you next June and have started the preparations for this exchange.

We have the intention to write you monthly about the progress of this project in our group.
In the meantime we hope to receive your information as well so that we can prepare ourselves for the questions which you want to present us.

To explore the subject “Change” and making it more concrete, we have asked the members in our group to mention 3 changes which played an important role in their lives.

In this way a list of subjects came about that we shall further discuss in the coming months.
The big themes will be illustrated with personal stories and experiences. As you know, great changes in society always find their reflection in the personal life of people. We together will find out how these big changes have been digested and what it teaches us for the future.

Herewith a short summary of the subjects mentioned in the first round:

- Existence, growth and development of the relation with your partner in life, but also experience a breach and loss of a partner.
- Leave or even stay on your native soil, the changes in the village, obtaining or losing the place where you like to live
- Changes in your life because you meet other social settings in a more open society
- Change of your vision of life through events in your personal life or in society
- The strongly changed position of the churches, that in the old days (till ca 1960) substantially dominated life in the Dutch churches
- The changes in the roles of man and wife, the growth of independence and freedom of the women
- Changes in families, the possibilities of birth control
- The increased progress of science and the subsequent changes of the vision of the world and creation
- Changed relations of authority of parents, children, government and civilians
- Increased prosperity through which it for example became possible to buy a house of your own
- Improvement of schooling and education through which people have more opportunities
- Gaining experience abroad and the coming of foreign work forces to our country
- A different realization of leisure time and change in the rhythm of life
- Coming into being of the European Union, among others the introduction of the Euro
- The personal computer, internet and e-mail
- Progress in the sphere of health care, the changed manner to deal with illness, ideas about hygiene
- It all the time having to learn new things, but also unlearn affairs that are out of date.

From this series we will choose subjects for a closer discussion.

We hope that you will have a good start with the theme “Change”. If there are from your side questions and subjects which have your preference, we are pleased to hear.

Friendly regards from the senior circle Wijk aan Zee