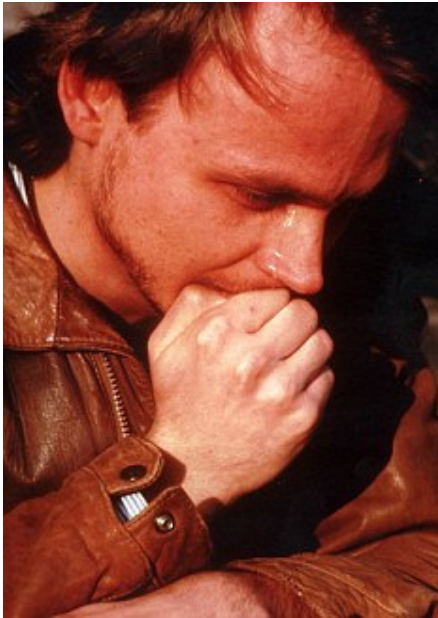


Mail Online - Friday, September 10 2010

Divorced men given shelter in pioneering Swiss project:

By Daily Mail Reporter



In need of sympathy: The centre advises men who have just separated. (Posed by model)

They are often left to fend for themselves when their marriage breaks down.

But newly separated fathers in need of a bed and a sympathetic ear can find help in the shape of pastor Andreas Cabalzar.

Last September four men visited him to ask for help after separating from their wives, so the Swiss pastor set up a shelter in the village of Erlenbach to help men in their position, where they can stay for £110 a week.

Unique in Switzerland, the project has seen the numbers of applications to stay in the house increasing every week.

'Eighty per cent of the time it is the wife asking for a divorce and the children stay in the family home while the father leaves with his suitcases and becomes more vulnerable,' Pastor Cabalzar said.

Of his residents, he said: 'No more than three newly separated fathers can stay as it gives a very good synergy. They speak and help each other; it makes a good self-help group.'

Pastor Cabalzar is now looking at getting more houses. Some men stay a few days, others a few weeks but he makes sure that any stay is as short as possible.

The former equities trader is seeking independent financing for more houses within his parish to help separated fathers to rebuild their lives while maintaining contact with their children in the early stages of family break-up.

This article can be viewed at the following link;

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1310647/Help-separated-fathers-need-sympathetic-ear.html?ITO=1490>