

**Ellel Ministries Netherlands**  
**“Huize Baak”**  
**Annual Report 2023**







January 2024

## Introduction

2023 has been both a tough and a rewarding year. We took every opportunity to open our doors and welcome the people; often rearranging schedules, so that our students could finish Explore within the year. We were thrilled to welcome 26 students to Explore + in July; and those who attended have been richly blessed. There have also been major changes in the team and we continue to pray for more mature members to join us in the work. We have faced many challenges and overcome them by God's grace, encouraged by countless beautiful testimonies, we are reminded daily of His faithfulness as he provides for all our needs.

## Overview

The Team gathered each week to watch Peter Horrobin's live stream broadcasts, and time permitting... finished a team study of "The Bait of Satan" before moving on to "Boundaries". The Team has been blessed by the introduction of weekly intercession and worship times, and ongoing monthly Communion, as well as regular pray and fasting days.

This was our fifth year running the Explore programme, so our third Explore+ which ran in the summer. We began preparing for Explore+ in March, and continued to fine tune our plans till our 26 students arrived in July. Explore+ was a busy, but beautiful week with many of our Ministry Team and trainees in attendance, along with a bunch of former students who had been waiting. We decided to have everyone students, team and volunteers pitch in to get things done. Working together brought a great sense of belonging and unity to the group, and has resulted in more students joining us as regular volunteers.

We have continued to make new connections into the wider Christian community in The Netherlands. In June we met with Leaders of a Church in Scheveningen. They are passionate about fostering growth and maturity in their congregation, and see the work of Ellel Ministries has the spiritual Keys they need. Marc together with a small team made four visits to the church; they were well received, and set to continue in the New Year.

This was Marc and Margaret's 11<sup>th</sup> year leading the work of Ellel Ministries Nederland it has had its blessings and challenges, as well as new opportunities to stretch and grow. The full-time team numbered 6 in the summer and grew to 8 in September. Our faithful part-time team has remained steady. As always, an army of faithful volunteers has turned up to fill the gaps as required. We continue to pray for mature loadbearing team members. Explore+ was a great challenge, and very rewarding as we taught a new school for the third time. We were assisted in the leading and teaching by Johan and Hein.

Marc has really enjoyed teaching and engaging with our students this year. He also visited Ellel Belgium to teach. He taught most days on Explore+ including the one day course. Marc kicked off our new school year in September teaching both "The Big Picture" and "The Family Business", he also taught "Lost and Found". These came on top of all the usual administration as director; of a very small team, that goes with running a large centre. This we welcomed Monika as our office manager,

Margaret along with her usual tasks as Deputy and Ministry Manager taught "In His Image" for the first time; with the extra challenge of organising and coordinating all the workshops, which she repeated for "Bridge from the Head to the Heart" in the summer. She also taught most days on Explore+ "Knowing God" and "Godly Sexuality". Margaret has continued to receive treatment for a whiplash injury from last year, which requires considerable time. In December she was also able to visit family in Australia; for the first time in two years, returning late January.



Jack has continued the work of restoration and painting various parts of the main house, and other buildings. He also still carries most of the responsibility for food shopping and weekend catering, though Birgit and Klaas are also taking some of these responsibilities. During the shutdown, he and Joel painted the catering kitchen and dishwasher room in the Koetshuis.

Hein also travelled to family in Texas over Christmas, for the first time in two years. His main work is still maintaining the estate, improving the garden beds, and organising volunteers to work in the grounds. Together with Marc he reviewed and corrected the translation of EXPLORE. Hein taught some sessions on Explore+, he also Translates for courses, leads Bible study and mentors for the YPT's, and is part of the Ministry Team.

Janny started as our House Manager and has been a faithful member of both our ministry team.

Kathleen has continued to serve on team; as she is able, following a whiplash injury from last year. She has ongoing treatment, which requires considerable time. Kathleen prepares soup for our weekend courses, and a team meal each week. She was a great help to Margaret cutting all the stars and shields for our two corporate projects, folding and messaging paper planes, and preparing creativity materials for several courses.



## House and new equipment

The installation of our Fire alarm system was completed. It has been a huge project. Slowly but surely the locks and door handles are being replaced around the property, this is another long term project in such a large property. He also managed to clear an attic space by selling the excess chairs that had been gathering dust there.



A new air refreshing system was installed in the conference room by our handy friends Kees and Jan. It has the benefit of retrieving the heat or cool from the expelled air and returning it to the fresh in the process, as desired. This has made our environment healthier, reduced our heating costs and been greatly appreciated by all, as we no longer need to open the windows for Covid.

## Books, eBooks and Online book store...

We continue with the translation and publishing of Ellel books in Dutch. This year we tried to order the book "Boundaries" by Cloud and Townsend and found that the Dutch version called "Grenzen" had been sold out. We managed to get the rights, one of our volunteers translated the book and we managed to get it printed. A valuable addition to our bookshop. We have also started to process of moving our online store to WooCommerce to have it the online bookstore integrated with the new Ellel Website.

## Finance

We are grateful for God's provision and the faithfulness of our supporters. We were able to pay all bills and repay a portion of the outstanding private loans as planned.



## Conclusion:

The last year with the Covid pandemic have been a huge challenge and has forced us to be creative in the way we do what we do. Except for a few months, we were able to keep operating and we managed to run all Explore courses and finish the year well.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'M Schuthof'.

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Marc Schuthof  
Centre Director  
Ellel Ministries Netherlands at Baak.