

# Ellel Ministries Nederland Annual Report 2024



**“How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.”** Psalms 133:1

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## Deputy Director

2024 was a good and busy year, the 12<sup>th</sup> under Marc and Margaret's leadership. Along with our regular events Explore A and B, Explore+, the Prayer Ministry Training School and Bridge from the Head to the Heart we held two Open Days, one as a free teaching day on Stress, Anxiety and Burnout. Marc and Margaret enjoyed the privilege of working with various other teams during the year, Denmark in February, Norway in August, also joining with the ILC in March and PTF in September. Marc also made two visits to a Church in Portugal; in April and August, this was a real highlight and blessing for him. He is working on building relationships with the Church Leaders, as they are seeking to work with Ellel Ministries. In September Margaret also helped on Bridge in Scotland and Bridge in Florida in October.

Marc and Margaret alongside Leadership, Teaching and Ministry continue with oversight of many other areas of the work. Marc covers all things Technical, Financial, IT, Venue Hire and Business aspects of the ministry. He also has oversight of book publishing for Ellel NL, co-ordinating with the translators, formatting and sending the books for printing. Margaret continues as Ministry Manager with the administrative assistance of Arie for Healing Retreats, and Monika for Personal Ministry Appointments. Margaret also has oversight of the In-house Team, Ministry Team, Teachers, Translators and Volunteers. She also co-ordinates event schedules, the International Prayer Update and Bridge.

Bridge 2024 was a brilliant highlight. We were thrilled to welcome Catherine to teach on Bridge alongside Marc and Margaret, plus three of the Grange team who joined our workshop leaders and volunteers. We also welcomed Geert and Roland from Germany and Gilly, Rhode and Pernille from Denmark to lead workshops.

We are blessed to have a united team, though small in number they serve with willing hearts and hands. Having a core team of six it is a wonder to see how much The Lord can do with our loaves and fishes. Our team completed a series of off-site Ministry Training Days with two Churches, Church in the Garden, Hilversum and Morgenstond in Scheveningen. The trainings were well received and each visit included teaching on foundational topics, discussion and practical application for their prayer teams.

In November we had a great day Team day Out to a wildlife park, some sight-seeing and Christmas markets in Germany. The team and guest had the added excitement of our daughter and two grandchildren living on-site for nine months. Ellen was able to work with us part time, updating the graphics on all our materials and advertising while the children were at school. We also enjoyed a long-awaited visit from John and Jennie Berry who were a great support in establishing the work in Baak.

In August we blessed and released Adrie; to a mission posting, after a year on team. Tonia also served on team for one month. In October we farewelled Kathleen after many years serving part-time; she will be long remembered for her delicious soups, and we are pleased she is thriving in her new place. In November we celebrated Monika's first anniversary with

us and are grateful for her dedicated enthusiasm in all things administration, it has greatly freed up Marc and Margaret for other tasks.

Marc, Hein, Jack and Janny undertook BHV recertification and are responsible for health and safety on the property.

Marc, assisted by Janny had oversight of venue hire. We again welcomed many Christian groups to the property including Church groups and elders from Menorah, Morning Star, the Tabernakel Kerk, and both a men's and women's weekend from HVC (mostly around 20 guests per group). Peon, a group of 25 Christian Headmasters, and Heart Beat a youth ministry with a large and enthusiastic group of young people ran their weekends at Baak, it was lovely to see several young people baptised during the event.

We also welcomed back Ebenezer for their annual conference, Alpha Arnhem with 80 guests, I am Loved Bible School with 40 guests. Beter Verbonden held their marriage course here and we hosted three weddings. We also hosted an overflow group from De Kervel.

We have been greatly assisted by our dedicated and faithful volunteers. Arie and Tanja continue to lead worship, Tanja also sets up sound for the weekends and Arie oversees Healing Retreat applications. Gerrie co-ordinates our catering volunteers and serves on the catering team for many events. Kees, along with hosting many events, keeps our radiators and heating system in good order. Evert-Jan and Manfred spend two days a month at Baak, working on renovation work of the buildings and electricals. Tosca spends several weeks each year particularly helping in house, with longer events, or cleaning windows. And the ever-faithful men from Urk have continued to expand from garden force to internal jobs, blessing both us and themselves in the process.

### **Margaret Schuthof**



**Team Day Out 2024**

## Office Manager

As Office manager, my tasks were overseeing the administration of all Ellel courses, covering all the bookings, maintaining the Ellel database and the website, welcome packs, course notes, Reflection Time materials, name badges and programmes. This includes the *Explore* courses, *Healing Retreats*, *Open Days*, *Explore +* as well as *Bridge from the Head to the Heart*. I have been organising all Prayer Ministry appointments (PMAs) and Encounter Days, including keeping records of the completed ones. It was my responsibility to oversee the daily calendar for the centre, keeping vehicle records ordering office supplies, sending and answering emails, attending to phone calls and couriers, collecting and sending daily mail, including bookshop orders.

Moreover, I had the privilege to be involved in prayer ministry, both during the Encounter Time of the *Explore* courses and PMAs, as well as in the training of new prayer ministers. With the new *Explore* season, which started in September, I took on leading one of the *Explore A* groups. During *Bridge* it was a great joy for me to lead the jewellery workshop. I have also been helping with the projection of the lyrics during worship. During our course weekends, I am intentional about building relationships with guests and the associate team.

I enjoyed our regular trips to two different churches, with the opportunity to present teaching contents and to train the members of the ministry groups in prayer ministry. One of those church visits kick-started my teaching in Dutch, as not all participants were able to understand English. In general, Dutch learning is also part of my duties. I spend about an hour per day on exercises and I visit a three-hour evening language course once per week.

One of the most fulfilling tasks for me is to teach and to prepare teachings. Topics in the last year were *Addictions & Eating Disorders*, *Deception*, *Soul-Ties*, *Nature of Man*, *Forgiveness*, *Restoration*, *Dealing with Stress*, *People Skills*, and various sessions of *Explore A1*, *A3*, *A4*, *B1*, *B4* and *B5*. I also had the opportunity to give devotionals for our *Explore* guests and short communion talks for the team.

It has been nice to be responsible for the bookshop, to update the stock, to order new books and gifts, to print and attach price tags, to put the titles for the book tables together and to put the sales into our accounting system. As funny as it sounds, I have also translated some material from English to Dutch, with google translator's help, and obviously a native speaker to check against the results. Regarding our team times, I continuously encourage to support other centres in prayer, using the IPU. Moreover, I implemented a worship time on the Saturdays without a course.

In the first half of the year, I tried to revive Flourish, our young people team, by renewing the website content, getting publicity out and looking into the contents for possible improvements or adjustments. Sadly, no one applied.

On a more practical side of things, there has been the odd attempt at helping in cleaning, shopping or catering. I have been cooking once a week dinner for team (without ever repeating a recipe 😊).

**Monika Lange**

## House Manager

In 2024 my main task was housekeeping, cleaning and preparing the rooms to receive guests. The first half of the year together with Adrie, the second half with Peggy, who comes once a week to help with cleaning. I also make some team meals and bake for events.

Highlight was the purchase of new mattresses for the Slaapgebouw; we can now offer many guests an extra fine bed with these mattresses.

After the PMTS was completed, I started working on the prayer ministry team. So beautiful to see how God works in the HR weekends and during PMAs, but also during the short prayer time on the Explore weekends.

If necessary, I also help in the catering, which is a nice change.

**Janny van Vliet**

## Garden and Maintenance Manager

This year knew no extreme drought or heatwave or anything really special except that it was more wet than usual but for the Netherlands that is also not an exception. Plenty of work was done as in previous years beginning in January when, as has been the case in other years, the men from Urk came in large numbers (about 40 people) to help in the garden and also doing projects in the buildings. In the garden and forest, they cut down 4 dead and fallen trees, cut them in smaller slices and chopped and stacked 15m<sup>3</sup> which was a record! I had added a 7m<sup>3</sup> woodshed before they came and it was already full when they left. A neighbor had helped cutting down the most difficult tree.

A new activity they did was redoing pavement around the cross and the garage.

With some of my own activities I was helped by Frans (on Thursdays) and Harm (on many Fridays).

Because of the amount of work it takes to weed the pebbles I allowed some parts to turn green so I can mow them instead of weed them and keep them clean.

Some donated plants I put in garden beds where they can remain and grow bigger. We did purchase 2 'edible' chestnuts in the forest for future eating and selling like we also sell walnuts each year. In other places we planted 5 small beeches and 3 oaks further in the forest. The year before I started spreading Calcium on all the grass fields to lessen the amount of moss in the grass and I did that again this year.

A neighbor donated some of his left-over pebbles to us for the driveway. In some flower beds I rearranged some of the plants to improve the beds as I do every year. The beds on the other side of the pond looked really nice this year especially the many hydrangeas and the rhododendrons did very well this year. In December I bought several different kinds of pot plants that can stay outside during the Winter instead of the Geraniums that I always have to put inside. No work was done in or around the moat.

### **Work around the buildings.**

In January the men from Urk did 2 carpentry jobs; closing the former staircase hole between the big office and room 2 and putting a lower ceiling in the shower and adjoining room of Marc and Margaret (which are next to room 15). On the second floor of the house they installed automatic lights in most of the corridor. In several spaces around the property we replaced regular fluorescent lights with Led lighting.

From the neighbor mentioned earlier we also received a table tennis table. We also bought some outside tables and chairs to replace old ones.

We received subsidy for separating rainwater downpipes from the sewage system. It was a heavy job with a lot of digging by hand; and laying pipe, redirecting the rainwater into our moat: We did the west side of the Boerderij and almost half (the east side) of the Koetshuis. We purchased 850 rooftiles for replacing tiles on the Boerderij next year.

Kees installed an extra heating radiator in the dining room and a small one in the large kitchen.

Evert Jan spent most of the year remodeling the small coffee corner in the main house, he is not yet finished. Manfred installed in many showers improved exhaust ventilation fans. We installed a new hot water pipeline to apartment 16 so they have much quicker hot water when they turn on the shower. In the main house we improved insulation around some of the bed rooms (21 and 24) and corridors in that same area and all trapdoors leading to the attic.

A main achievement this year was that we finally received our certificate for the fire alarm system in the main house, after about 7 or 8 years of step by step improvements!

### **Ministry Work**

In the Spring of 2023 I became part of the leadership team here. In 2024 we had a leadership meeting almost every week. Besides that, I lead the Prayer Ministry Team School together with Zwanneke where we do most of the teaching and training of the new potential prayer ministry team students. I also taught a few sessions on the Explore B school.

### **Hein Kempenaar**

## **Painting and Catering Manager**

I have two jobs for which I am responsible. My primary job is painting and restoration of the buildings, both interior and exterior; however, I spend more time on my secondary task, which is kitchen supervisor. This tends to take up most of my week, preparing for our weekend courses, doing the shopping, setting up the dining room, overseeing the volunteer cooks and kitchen crew, ensuring the meals are served on time, and then the clean-up at the end of the day, as well as a major clean-up at the end of the weekend. I also coordinate with and supervise any outside groups which hire our property for their events, making sure they know how to operate our equipment and carry out their own clean up.

I also liaise with Margaret over planning and ordering any new crockery, kitchen supplies, etc. I am also responsible for food shopping for the team meals during the week, as well as coordinating all recycling and waste disposal.

My other job is restoring the buildings as a painter. There is a lot of restoration and repair work needing to be done on every one of the four buildings on the property.

Early this year, we had help from people who came from Urk, in that group where 4 painters who painted the walls around the stairs in the hall way in the Koetshuis, on the main floor as well as on the first floor they also painted the walls in the foyer area.

During this year I continued with maintenance on the Boerderij at the rear of the building, working on restoration of the windows and the window-frames.

I had some help from our student and volunteer Vincent who also re painted the lamp post close by the entrance of our property.

**Jack van Baaren**

## **Final note from the Director**

Every year we do the same thing:

Welcome the people,  
Teach about the Kingdom of God and  
Pray for those who are in need of healing,

and yet, every year is so different, and gives reason to be thankful.

I am thankful for the team, the supports, the volunteers and everyone else who has made this year into an amazing year.

In this ever so uncertain world, we may focus on an everlasting and a never changing God who gives us identity, purpose and a reason to worship.

In Him we give thanks for the year that was, in Him, we can look forward to the year to come in anticipation of what He will do.

With God's riches blessings,



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Marc Schuthof

Centre Director

Ellel Ministries Netherlands at Baak.