

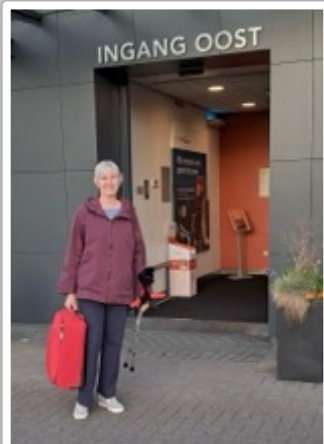
A Blessed Christmas and a Happy 2026!

Johan en Heleen Velema
Breehoven 16
6721 SN Bennekom, NL
johelvel@bos.nl



Early March, Johan attended a conference in Albania, where some 500 leaders of Bible schools from around the world gathered. Afterwards, Heleen also travelled to Albania, where we spent a long weekend together enjoying this remarkable country.

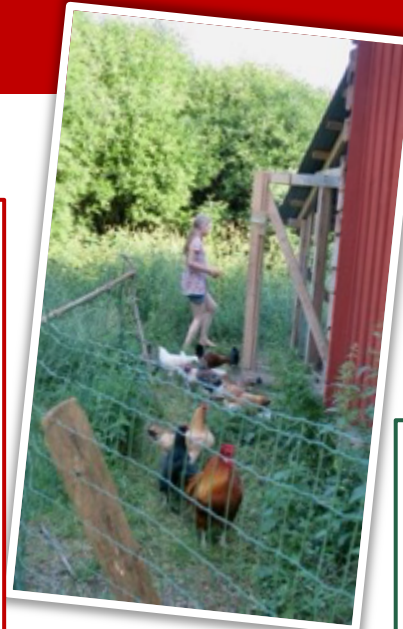
Three years ago, a group of women from different churches in our village opened a lounge, where twice a week people could walk in for a coffee and a chat. Heleen joined some 20 volunteers to act as host for the often elderly guests.



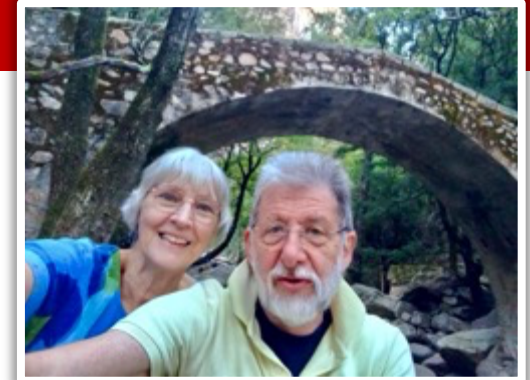
After four years of suffering increasing pain, Heleen went to a specialized clinic on 28 March for hip replacement surgery. We are so very grateful that it was a complete success. She doesn't feel a thing anymore and can do everything again.



In July, Heleen spent over a week in Finland to help Hans-Paul scrape, sand and paint the window frames of their house. In Finland, the houses have double window frames, so it was a big job. It was nice to see them and our granddaughter Signe again. She loved her chickens. But unfortunately, a mink recently broke into the coop and killed all the chickens. We were all very sad.



Johan has become chairman of the board of Langham Partnership Netherlands. In the photo, he is signing the official document at the notary's office. This international organisation aims to strengthen the voice of Christians in the majority world, for example by providing scholarships and publishing books. (LanghamPartnership.nl)



Early September, after 10 years of absence, we were able to visit Corsica again. We rented a wooden cottage near Porto. It was wonderful to walk in the mountains some days, followed by swimming in the Mediterranean. Other days, we stayed at home and read books.



Johan preached four times at our local international church and conducted two workshops on prayer.