

VAN VLIET FAMILY



This last year has been a year without all too many huge events or far away travels, but still enough happened to give you a little update :-)

This summer we had a trip with our camper van and met up with Herbert's mom and her brother in his camper van. Together we drove to Valse to 'hang out' at the American Festival and meet up with Eskil, Sofie and Sofie's parents who have a cabin in the area.

We also had a trip with our camper van to Sarons Dal (a christian camp site) together with friends. We had nice weather and a good time.



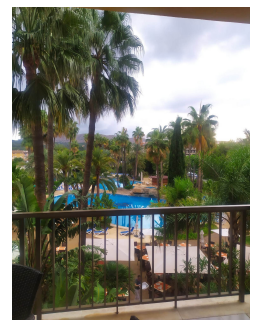
Later that summer we drove to the Netherlands to be with our family there while Krister went to a camp in Norway with a friend and flew in a week later.

We ended our stay in the Netherlands with going to Teenstreet (OM's youth camp) in Den Bosch, and ofcourse tried a Bossche Bol, a famous pastry for that city.

The last weekend of August, being back in Norway again, we joined a camp with the local Dyslexia group, where there were some families and lots of teens. The camp was in Evje, a beautiful little town in the middle of southern Norway.

Krister and Bente enjoyed hanging out with other teens, and activities like climbing, swimming and playing board games.

In October, we decided to escape the Norwegian fall weather and took Krister and Bente with us for a week of holiday in Mallorca, and added 2 weeks in the Netherlands where Krister could work with Herbert on networks, which is part of his schooling.



Since August, we've been a family of 3 in every day life, since Eskil moved to Oslo, Krister went back to boarding school after summer holiday, and our exchange student Feline went back to Germany in June.

Marthe and Sander are still living in Oslo and continuing to work towards the completion of their formal education. As the saying goes, they've never been as close to completion as right now.

With old jobs going and new opportunities pursued. We get the occasional glimpse of their life together and we always look forward to spending time together.

Marthe decided to study for another year, taking up a new study, while Sander is looking for a permanent job either in Oslo or here in our area. We of course hope he'll get a job here, which means they will move back.



Eskil and Sofie also moved to Oslo and were lucky to have Marthe and Sander (with a car!) close by, so they got help sofa shopping. They are now pursuing the fine art of brewing and history and coffee making. A smooth ride into the future with a spot at the University for Eskil, a new job for Sofie, and an apartment for them both neatly lining up.

It was also the year of Eskil asking his Sofie the Big question! No date is set yet, but at least her answer was yes, so we have a wedding to look forward to.



Krister started his second year at Tryggheim, worked with networks during the two weeks of practical placement, to get used to normal working hours and experience real work challenges.

The guys at school that Krister collaborated with, invented a device that detects collisions and their team has received a lot of acclaim and praise.

His highlight of this year may have been turning 18 or, as he calls it, «now the age where he legally can become an alcoholic».



Bente has been going strong with her band, travelling to Sauda for UKM and getting their first paid gig. School has been challenging but as this is the final year, she will have ample time to consider the future from the summer onwards. As of now she does not have any concrete plans but these will pop up eventually for sure.

Bente finally got to go on a school trip to Poland and Germany to visit historical sites such as concentration camps and the Berlin wall.

Her highlights have been her confirmation in church on May 1st and going to an Elton John concert in Oslo with mom.



Krister and Bente have also become active in the local youth council of the Dyslexia Norway foundation and also Maria's involvement with DN has been formalized with a part in the board.

Through the foundation we also get to meet new people.



Maria has also been busy this year with preparing for quite a big performance with the local choir (Gjesdalkoret). It was the choir's 40th anniversary and to celebrate that the choir was performing a show consisting of not only singing, but also choreography, and acting.

For May 17th (Norway's national day) she was asked to sing Norway's national anthem on the town square after the parade.

Just now before Christmas she also jointed the worship team in the local Baptist church and will be continuing there after Christmas.

We have also decided to become members of the Baptist church.

We feel it is important to belong to a local body of believers.

For Herbert it's easiest to look at 2022 through photos taken (there are a few), blog entries written (fewer than the photos), and projects completed (fewer still). But through the year, all these include strengthened current relationships as well as new friendships (and, obviously, a latent desire to reconnect with those he wasn't able to communicate with). Twenty twentytwo for sure brought lessons learnt, both through own experiences and through what others lived through, good and bad. One such lesson is that a relationship needs to go before belief and ideology.



As our friend Signe said (paraphrased): don't let your righteousness go before your love. Paul states something similar in 1 Cor 14. If you feel I've been in the wrong, let me know and I'll do my best to fix me 😊

My project for the longer term is to help "spread the word" about learning taxonomy RTTI and its sidekick, behaviour model OPSA. RTTI is for kids to know about the stuff they learn in school (Is it to remember, train, transfer or have insight? Big difference!), and OPSA is about how to do so effectively (by organisation, participation, self-confidence, autonomy). In 2022, metafor.no published two books for the Norwegian market, and hopefully next year, another branch will be added which will be about identifying and taking down spiritual strongholds, which I think we can disguise as character building or well-being. So stay tuned for next year's letter.

In the mean time, with all my frustrations and reliefs, my happiness and sadness, this myriad of thoughts and feelings, I'm thankful for you, and that at one point our lives touched and I hope it will do so again sometime in the future. It made mine so much better. I truly don't know half of you half as well as I should like 😊

During December we had our bathroom renovated and just now, the day before Christmas Eve, our shower, sink and toilet were installed. We're so happy to be able to shower again and not having to wash ourselves in the bathtub upstairs. This last year we've been unfortunate to have had a water leak in our pipes, ending in a big part of our basement being under water. Insurance case is still not closed, but at least the leak was fixed.

We of course don't know what 2023 is going to bring, but plans are for Herbert to visit the YWAM base in Papua New Guinea where some IT stuff needs to be done. Krister will go from a student to either start working after summer (internship) or maybe first do a year of Bible School or «Folkehøyskole» where he would be learning game design.

Bente is in her final year, so will have exams coming up, and also have some new beginnings after summer holiday (although she doesn't know exactly what yet). We are also hoping it can be a year with more travels again.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and all best wishes for 2023!

