

Christmas letter 2007

Dear friends!

Here comes the second edition of our annual Christmas letter.

We named 2007, appropriately, the year of change. Here comes why ☺



The year started in Trondheim's harbour, where Albert, Beatrix and Monique, Pieter & their two daughters were surprised by the spectacular fireworks all around. Way to go Trondheim!



The rest of the week we played in the snow, at Susan and Magne's, and in more snow. Great fun ☺



Tessa tries skiing



Sylvie safely sticks to her sledge



Susan, Tessa, Monique and Sylvie

Job, please ...

Last year ended with Albert starting afresh with applying for jobs in Trondheim. This time around, he started writing his application letters in Norwegian. He got another job interview immediately. Coincidence? Pretty quickly after his interview Hjelp24, an occupational health service, offered him a temporary 50% job. A good enough start, we decided, and then life became a rollercoaster for a good while. He quit his job in Rotterdam and many other things, moved to Trondheim at the end of April, and started working at Hjelp24 in May. Fully in Norwegian, of course, the quickest way to learn the language!



Campus Dragvoll, where Beatrix works

Different job, please ...

Beatrix made quite a change in her job as well. After having been the leader of her group for 6 years, she decided it was time to pass on the buck, and have time again for her research. August 1st Gertjan, one of her Dutch colleagues, took over. The first thing Beatrix did was ... clean up her office 😊

I do, I do ...

The next big change was our wedding, August 7th. Easily the highlight of the year 😊



The good life in Norway

Norway has a lot to offer in terms of nature and outdoor activities. Here come some examples that illustrate why we choose to live here rather than in the Netherlands 😊



Winter in Trollheimen



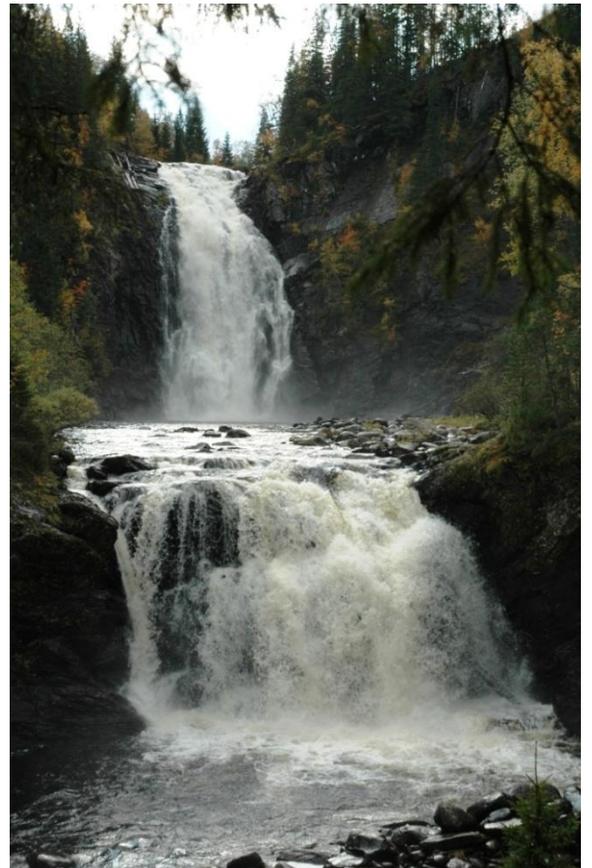
Helping Anne to build a veranda



Cycling around Jonsvatnet



Hiking in Trollheimen with Jorunn & Geir



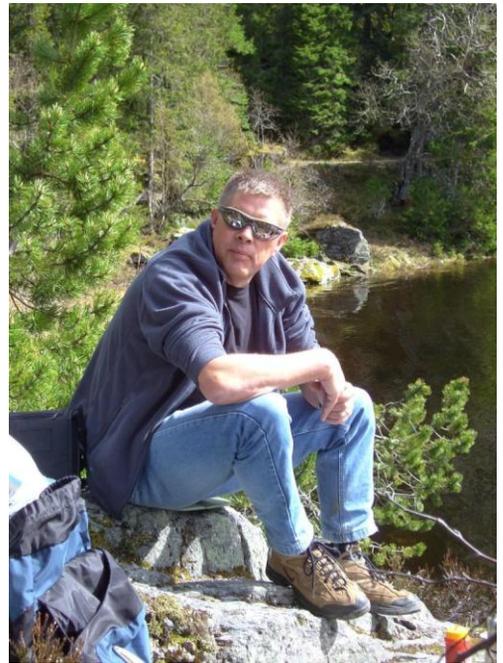
Storfossen

Visitors from the Netherlands

Norway is not only attractive to us, but also to our friends and family who visit us regularly.



Eastern: Ingrid (on crutches!) and Simon



May: Wim & Gertrude



June: Marretje and Marrie

Norwegian culture

Norwegians are very fond of traditions and 'folkefest' (folk festivals). The biggest folk party is 17. mai, the national constitution day. The streets fill up with people in national costumes, waving little norwegian flags, and cheering the many parades.



Music parade and children's parade

Another great 'folkefest' was the World Cup Ski jumping and Nordic combined, organized in Trondheim on December 8-9. Of course, we had all-round passes again.



Beyond Norway ...

Besides travelling between Rotterdam and Trondheim in the beginning of the year, we also made trips to Greece and Berlin. Beatrix travelled a bit more because of work: Finland, Iceland, Finland again, Copenhagen and almost Finland once more.



Halkidiki, Greece



Lost in Iceland



Visiting Jens & Jeannette in Berlin

... and back

In augustus it became clear that Albert would not continue at Hjelp24 after October. After a short and intense period of writing new job applications and doing several job interviews, NTNU's Department of Civil and Transport Engineering hired him as their new head of administration. He started November 1st, and has loved it there from the start 😊





To our family and
friends everywhere:



**Merry Christmas
and
Happy 2008!**



**Love and big hug to you all
Beatrix & Albert**

