

Electronic Jolts Treatment



JOLTT vt. [*< earlier jot, to jog*] 1. to shake up or jar, as with a bumpy ride 2. to shock or surprise vi. To move along in a bumpy manner n. 1. a sudden jerk, bump, etc. 2. a shock or surprise 3. A stimulating reminder about our ministry in Muslim South-east Asia. *joltingly adv.* *jollity*

April 2019

MOVEMENTS

APL

3-5: In Malaysia with Indonesian partners.

6-22: Nathan's 2-week school break.

8-11: Delivering an intensive course in BGK.

23-25: Speaking in Singapore.

MAY

Largely at home, although Sandra will have 1 more trip to Malaysia before she can change to a more stable visa option.

JUNE

3-6: In Singapore to attend a mission research conference.

7: Nathan begins 2-month school holiday.

13: Michaela arrives in Thailand for just under a month.

PRAISE

1. For recent contract and visa renewals (until the end of Sept).

2. For progress with relocating young Indonesian heads, hearts, and hands.

3. For a busy Mar, full April, but (largely) at-home May.

PRAYER

1. That a school in Northern Malaysia will be found on Apl 4 for this Indonesia worker.

2. That Apl 8-11 in Bangkok will be as productive as possible.

3. For Nathan as his school year gets busier.

4. For Sandra as she works away behind the scenes.

5. For a meaningful, and restful Easter at home in CM, after a busy start to 2019.

Since March 15, I've made a couple of attempts at writing. Not sure what to add to the commentary on ChCh but think it's misguided to turn *Jolts* into 2nd/3rd rate blog posts, and/or Twitter/Facebook feeds. The world doesn't need another keyboard warrior. We've reflected on our formative years in South Thailand living in a Muslim community affected by violence, particularly the 6 years between 2000 and 2010 when we got to see how a range of ordinary and extra-ordinary Muslims responded to personal loss and resent at being a religious minority. Brought out the best of some, and the worst out of others. Have been struck at from people in NZ being *surprised* at the generous responses by some victims. Wanna suggest that readers re-read Matthew & Luke with an eye for how Jesus interacted with the range of non-Jewish outsiders in his religiously, and ethnically diverse home province of Galilee. Get ready to be reminded about how He engaged with immigrants and (people profiled as) invaders, and how they responded to Him. Surely a *good* Roman centurion (see Matt 8) is an oxymoron!?! Many good things happen when people think more about *Romans* (as people), and less about *Rome* (as a power and/or ideology). The same is true when our interest is ordinary Muslims (not Islam). Hope that you – like us – wanna see something fresh this Easter. Well, Jesus was crucified on a *Roman* cross that was rendered impotent by his resurrection. When writing to Roman readers in Romans 1 (duh!), Paul claims that the resurrection represented something like God's coronation of Jesus as a sort of cosmic Caesar (that the Jews called the Messiah). A string of Caesars established their Kingdom in very different ways to Jesus who left us a mandate for peaceful service, and suffering. [fad to commercial break for Easter eggs...]

Since writing last, there's been lots of good things happening. You might recall that I travelled to South Thailand and Northern Malaysia, in early March (with a famous Dutch scholar). There's no way of you knowing that halfway through our trip, he suggested visiting some large, well-established traditional Islamic schools (in Northern Malaysia). While at the time, I had no reason why, when I arrived in Indonesia two days later to (again) meet our Indonesian partners, I began connecting the dots. They informed me that the first of their disciples was ready to relocate to the neighbourhood. He couldn't begin his MA (with me) until September, but they wanted him to come ASAP. Needed to begin learning the local Malay dialect, and (the many) important local *cultural* differences. Soon after beginning to brain-storm how to facilitate this, I mentioned having visited some Islamic schools who took students from all over Southeast. Perhaps one of these would support an application for a student visa, and to allow our young friend to stay at their school? Soon I'm leaving again for 2 days in Malaysia, to find out. Will meet one of the Indonesian leaders and this candidate there, and introduce them to some of the people I met in March. Some more face-to-face will be needed. This is another wonderful story of the synergy between my various roles. No doubt there will be lots of other details that will need to be worked out, and I oscillate between being excited and terrified.

After leaving Indonesia on the 14th, I gave two talks in Malaysia, and got to South Thailand on March 18th. Over that week, I presented two workshops at a conference in South Thailand, and did about 20 hours of one-on-one training/mentoring (more planned April 8-11). Was back in Chiang Mai with the family for the weekend (Mar 22-23), which was great. Nathan's year at school is getting busier, which means that Sandra is also busy. Over the last week of March, she was also helping look after kids whose parents are attending a training course. I spent the last week of March nervously waiting to hear whether my contract would be extended. Once I got the call with the good news (phew!), I zipped down to Bangkok to hover over the person preparing the paperwork to extend my visa so as. To hurry it along. After some confusion, frantic activity from one party, and false smiles from another (you guess who did what), managed to renew the visa in Bangkok one day *after* it expired.