

Electronic Jolts Treatment



JOLLY 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*

May 2019

MOVEMENTS

MAY

9-10: C in Bangkok

22-24: S in Malaysia for final visa run

JUNE

2-6: C in Singapore attending research consultation.

5: Nathan begins his 2-month school break.

11: 1-day workshop in Bangkok.

13: Michaela arrives for one month! :->=

17-23: S in Singapore for meetings.

PRAISE

1. For iced humidifiers and that the hot season has almost run out of steam.

2. For a quieter May after low-level madness in April.

3. For more open door and exciting opportunities that we can open/take on.

4. That Nathan looks like he will end his school year on a high.

PRAYER

1. For Chris has be re-starts his writing routine.

2. For Nathan's end-of-year assessments and exams, and 2-month school break.

3. For Sandra as she continues to serve behind the scenes through acts of caring service, and admin skills.

4. For Michaela as she completes the first semester in NZ, and for her 1-month "back home" in Thailand from mid-June.

5. For our Muslim mates over Ramadan. Seek and you shall find!

We never send monthly missives out on either 1 April, or 1 May. Since taking ourselves seriously, we don't write anything on April Fools' Day, and doing anything laborious might cause some to question our blue-collar worker credentials. April and May are also the two hottest months here. This year the heat *might* have impacted our productivity, which could have something to do with us sweating more than we sleep. Our latest intervention has been the acquisition a humidifier unit that does a remarkable job when placed at the end of our bed and used with iced water. #HotSeasonIcedHumidifier is not yet trending but gets more hits than replies to our *Jolts*. What are we doing wrong!?

April ended up by being a bit busier than we had hoped/planned. [If you are our supervisors (you know who you are), what we mean is that we perfectly collaborated our energy, time, talents, with the needs and opportunities related to pre-defined KPIs]. Grateful that lots of good things are happening, and that there are lots of good people who appreciate our input and encouragement. Here are some of them.

1. Indonesian partners [April 3-6]: Almost immediately after being back from renewing his Visa in Bangkok, Chris made a very quick trip to northern Malaysia to meet with 3 Indonesian friends. One of the leaders brought the young man who is planning to relocate to our part of the world. All the flights (and budget airlines) both there and back were delayed. This meant less sleep, and close contact with airport floors. At least there was aircon. We are very pleased to see this initiative moving along. We are not super organized but find ourselves sometimes frustrated at details and decisions being constantly renegotiated. We are playing the long-game and are confident that our emphasis on establishing mutual trust and respect will eventually pay dividends.

2. Intensive block course in Bangkok [April 8-11]: After a long weekend home, Chris was back in Bangkok to present an intensive one-on-one block course to 1 of his postgraduate students. Kept office hours at the University and covered quite a bit of ground. He appears to be appreciating the input. Great to see high levels of curiosity, and commitment. Also appreciated having some more quality time with my boss.

3. Thai New Year celebrations [April 12-16]: In the middle of April, Thailand celebrates the start of its New Year with a wild water throwing festival. Nathan's school began its 2-week holiday earlier, due to the appalling air quality caused by farmers burning off their fields and anticipation for the arrival of the rains. Sandra took a number of his mates out a couple of times to throw water at random passers-by.

4. Easter [April 19-21]: We had a small, low-key but incredibly meaningful celebration of Easter. Sand invested an enormous amount of time in preparing a modified meditative "stations of the cross" that included the empty tomb. Many of the people we hang out with on Sundays don't come from either conventional, or explicitly Christian backgrounds. We were greatly encouraged to read some feedback about how meaningful they found this way of celebrating Easter.

5. Speaking in Singapore [April 23-25]: Chris is it down to Singapore to give a talk at the National University. He also arranged for as boss to present a paper there. As is his custom, he made the most of the time away from family, and the free airfare to do some networking. Flew home via Bangkok to spend another day at work. All in all a good trip, which was the last of the month.

Chris is at home all of May, apart from 2 days. Sandra will be out of town for a few days. Nathan's school year is fast coming to a close. We were recently extremely encouraged by how well he did in his mock exams. The top priority between now and the end of June is to complete another round of submissions to academic journals. We are confident that the month at home will be exactly what the doctor ordered (no pun intended). A few people will be staying for a few days over May, and we are very much looking forward to Michaela visiting us for a month over her winter holidays! Can't wait!