

# Electronic JOLT Treatment



**JOLT** 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. jolity*

March 2020

## **MARCH Movements**

**9-12:** C in Bali for meetings with Indonesian partners;  
**13-Apr 5:** C in Otaki for another push on the not-so-tiny-house;  
**28:** Nathan begins his 3-week mid-semester break

## **APRIL sneak peeks**

**6:** C back to Southeast Asia; **21:** Nathan begins his final term at school.

## **MAY sneak peek**

Final full month together in Chiang Mai (CM).

## **JUNE sneak peeks**

**5:** N graduates; **8:** C leaves CM (for a conference in East Malaysia); **14:** C Arrives in NZ; **19:** S & N leave CM (for NZ).

## **PRAISE**

1. Nathan's still on track for a successful semester.
2. Michaela continuing to do well in Wellington.
3. More momentum with Indonesian mates.

## **PRAYER**

1. Improvement in professional relationship with Bangkok boss.
2. That Nathan finishes well.
3. For both of us as we "frontload" 2020.
4. For Indonesian hock up/hui (Mar 10-12).
5. For the 3-week push in Otaki, from Mar 13 and that enough hands to make for light work

Writing this on a Saturday morning at home here in Chiang Mai. While not a "holy" ritual, Saturdays here have a rhythm. The underwhelming wonders of what—if I am not mistaken—the young people call the "interwebs", these begin with listening to RNZ's Saturday morning. Sandra has settled into some sewing. Nathan had a friend over after school yesterday. He'll be up by noon. After 2 1/2 months of cool weather, it's began to warm up, this week. Slept with the fan on for the first time in ages, last night. We are more than mildly agnostic about air-conditioning, but not fan fundamentalists. A celebrated consolation at this time of year is that mangoes hawkers have begun popping up all over town. Yummy...

This is the first weekend in March. As I travel on Monday for almost a month (see details below), it will be my last weekend this month I'll be here. Can you remember us mentioning our plans to "frontload" 2020 (workwise)? Reasonably pleased with what we have ticked off. Sandra continues to work through her list of things to sign off on, and handover to others. In early January, I had a short (but very fruitful) 3 days in Kuala Lumpur. Likely to be my last before leaving in June. Since then, carved out some quality time with a postgraduate student I'm supervising. In addition to pushing along publications accepted in 2019, have made a start on new publications I'll submit sometime before June. That's the good news. The bad news is that months of cross-cultural miscommunications and administrative fowl-ups between myself and my Bangkok boss and his team has gotten me down. Groan! Sigh!

Last weekend, I spent 2 very full days in South Thailand with a small team of local Malay-Muslim researchers I've been working with since 2012. We were invited to organise and analyse the archive of the main Malay-Muslim (political and religious) leader in South Thailand during the 1940s— until he was abducted and disappeared by the Thai police in 1953. It is a tremendous privilege for someone like me to be invited. Timing-wise, the technical term is "suboptimal". We made a good start over these two days. We now have enough information to prepare funding proposals. Going to be a long-term project. Happy to press the start button, but nothing is gonna happen anytime soon. Plant potatoes at labour weekend if you wanna splash out on spuds at Christmas.

Our Indonesian mates (who we first mentioned a number of years back), happened to be in South Thailand while I was there. Wasn't able to meet up, but wasn't too gutted as well have 3 days together in Indonesia, from March 10. One of the leaders we have been in contact with for a number of years was in South Thailand with some of his younger disciples. The main reason for note meeting up was that they had booked a couple of days with one of the Sufi leaders I'd introduce them to years back. Would have loved to have join them, but I introduced these mates years ago. Time for us to step back. Take a backseat. Pray more than we say. Have profiled ourselves as entrepreneurial initiators, but definitely not indispensable. Wrong or rightly, conceive control as a cancer. Cut & nuke with chemo!

Wanted to (again!) mention that Chris will be in Otaki for about 3 weeks from March 13 for another push on the not-so-tiny house (which will be our new NZ home-base). If you have time and/or skills, and wanna be involved, [please reply to this email!](#) We'll thank—and feed—anyone who turns up.

We are being be sounded out about whether and how we'd be cool with continuing to strategically contribute post-June 2020. Agreed to some things. Prayerfully considering others. We'll begin contacting supportive individuals and supporting institutions, in March. Looking forward to materializing our gratitude from August 2020. Hard to believe that in one month, we would have done 20 years. God might be the star of the show, but its great there's space for under-qualified supportive actors. Looking forward to a change of focus post-June, but encouraged by the abundance of open door over here. TNZ again!

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