

Electronic Jolt 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 Southeast Asia. *joltingly adv. jolity*

High-voltage FAQs Edition [Oct 2020]

MOVEMENTS

We will be in Auckland at the end of October, for about one-week.

PRAISE

1. That the past few months have been so productive for Chris & for Sandra's new appointment in NZ.
2. That our first winter here has been so warm and comfortable.
3. That both the kids are doing well.
4. That God continues to supply our needs.
5. For the ways that we are able to make a difference here.

PRAYER

1. For Sandra as she begins learning some of her new responsibilities.
2. For Chris as decisions are made about either extending his present research position (in Bangkok), or changing employers.
3. Related to this, pray for wisdom about whether to wait a bit longer for things to return to "normal", or to make some tweaks sooner than later.
4. For both the kids, who are both doing well, but—like all of us—need prayers.

Those living in New Zealand were recently reminded that the country went into lockdown roughly six months ago. Not sure how many months ago we last *Jolted* you (after all, who is counting?!), but wanna emphasize that this special, high voltage frequently asked questions [FAQs] edition is out *before* the beginning of October! Wow! We are onto it!

FAQ 1: So, how have you been? Thanks for asking! Doing well. 7 out of 10.

FAQ 2: Now that you are back in New Zealand, will you be resigning from OMF? No. We have long planned to continue working for OMF from our new base in Otaki. The big idea behind this combo is that we can (a) live a local "missional" lifestyle with low overheads, and (b) continuing to contribute in Southeast Asia. More about both below.

FAQ 3: What have you been doing since May? We are technically on home assignment until the end of 2020, and if this had been a "normal" year, we might have already managed to meet some of you. We actually planned to be in Auckland for 10 days, but had to leave a day after arriving due to another lockdown. Most churches are still not "back to normal". Be assured that if we don't get enough done in this important department before the end of this year, we'll add it to our "to-do" list for next year. For Chris, writing has been his top priority, and is pleased to report having had a remarkably productive run. Last week, he completed his fifth submission to an academic journal, which puts him in a strong position to either (a) renew his present research position, or (b) negotiate a new one. Professionally, he operates in a "publish or perish" environment. In addition to writing, postgraduate students require some attention, from time to time. All good

FAQ 4: What will 2021 look like for you? Thanks for asking! As it happens, it is just been confirmed that Sandra will be taking on a member/pastoral care role for OMF New Zealand (not the field that we will continue to work for). No one who knows her or has followed her "portfolio" in Southeast Asia will be surprised by this appointment. She begins her hand over in late October and officially start at the beginning of January. So many things in scripture are radically countercultural, such as people being precious. People are the greatest resource in organizations like as ours. Productive people are made (not found), but few keep things when they are not cared for. For Chris, it's still a bit too early to give firm details about changes in his portfolio (which has not changed for a number of years). We had planned to travel to Southeast Asia 3–4 times a year from 2–3 weeks, but he won't be going anywhere until he can (a) arrive in Thailand without going into a 2-week quarantine, (b) return to NZ without doing the same, and (c) air travel is affordable. Stay tuned for other ways that Chris might strategically serve remotely.

FAQ 5: What's the latest on the not-so-tiny house? Nothing has been done, but it is at a stage where we can live here comfortably. Once there is enough in the finishing fund, we'll will complete the deck, plumb (cold) water in and (grey) water out and paint the outside. Contact Chris (0223912781) if you are keen to help.

FAQ 6: Tell us more about your responsibilities, routines, and rhythms? Although not in order of importance, here are some of snapshots. We understand our primary responsibility as offering practical and moral support to those doing most of the heavylifting in offering love and hospitality to the least, lost, and lonely. What does this look like? A few days a week there is some babysitting and/or being around after school if kids wanna pop in to play. At least once a week there are is crowd of people that need to be fed. We are now a lot better at taking the weekends off. Although Chris starts most days early with at least two hours of writing, when a publication requires a more concerted push, he goes into Wellington city. That said, he has been offered a space to write at, less that 1 km away.

If there are more questions you like us to answers, feel free to contact us! Thanks again for your support (whatever form it takes), and patience as we work on a new normal.