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# 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 South-east Asia. joltingly *adv.* jolity

[Nov 2020]

## MOVEMENTS

**25:** Chris will be in the South Island for *about* 2 weeks (mostly tramping, but also connecting with some supporters).

**Dec 6:** Preaching in Te Anau.

## PRAISE

1. For a busy (but fruitful) time in Auckland at the beginning of Nov.
2. That S continues to settle into her new member care and TCK roles with OMF.
3. That C is close to signing off on the last of his (very productive) academic year.
4. For all we have learnt about “being the change we want to see”—especially amongst the poor.
5. That M & N continue to do well, especially after a difficult year.

## PRAYER

1. For C has he (a) seeks to extend his research position (in Bangkok for 2020), and (b) completes his “Plan B Covid 19 Portfolio”, for 2021.
2. That we will all find a lower gear over the summer, after this busy year. We are looking forward to 2021, but wanna start with full emotional, and spiritual tanks.
3. For a meaningful advent during which we revisit the Christmas story.
4. That God will bless all we seek to encourage & serve, both in NZ, and on Southeast Asia.
5. For both our wonderful kids.

## Auckland [Oct 29–Nov 6]

We had a full—but fruitful—whirlwind week in Auckland at the beginning of the month. This began with a day of meetings at the office in Auckland. Sandra also spent a number of hours over a few days with the person at OMF she is taking over from. We shared at Mt. Albert Baptist on the Sunday. We enjoyed catching up with some friends and supporters, although we are only half-way through those on our list. We will be back in 2021 but desperately want to reiterate our appreciation for everyone’s patience at having taken so long to tick all of the “home assignment” boxes.

## Progress with our Plan B (Covid 19) Portfolio

Another (equally important) item in our “to-do-list” which won’t be completed before the end of 2020 is our “Plan B (Covid 19) Portfolio.” Regular readers of the *Jollt* should be aware that for a number of years we have (a) emphasised servicing in strategic ways, (b) planned to relocate to NZ (in June 2020), and (c) wish to continue working with OMF from a new home-base. However, the (exciting) pre-Covid 19 portfolio we had spent years working on assumed travel to Southeast Asia being possible—as well as affordable.

Even if flying internationally won’t be possible until 2022, most of the amazing doors that have opened, will still be open in 2022. There are *some* things about 2021 we *can* share. The most important is that Chris’ primary professional bread-n-butter will be his research position at Thailand’s biggest university in Bangkok. Ironically, we can thank the present pandemic that he will be able to do from NZ! That’s the good news. The not-yet-good news is that other details will take a few more months to finalize. We’d rather wait so as to clearly communicate details about tangible, quantifiable, and strategic contributions to a range of institutions, initiatives, and individuals. Some will be in NZ. Others in (Muslim-majority) Southeast Asia.

The following parts of Plan B are in place. Firstly, we will be emphasize working out ways of leading a local “missional” lifestyle in Otaki, where we are supporting people serving people who are *personalizing* the need for people of faith to respond to poverty, addiction, mental health, and homelessness. We are persuaded that Christian communities are more effective than government policies. If that does not make sense, please reply to this email. Secondly, Sandra’s role is a picture-perfect appointment, in a number of ways. Over and above her personal experience, and gifts, everything she can be done either remotely (or short trips) and are compatible with the missional lifestyle in Otaki.

## Moving into Advent, and (Lower) Summer Revs

It is hard to believe that on Wednesday (Chris is writing this on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>), it will be Christmas. We’re looking forward to beginning the advent season. Sandra has opened the boxes of advent decorations. We often hear ourselves referring to “doing the dance”, which describes faith better than fancy calculus. We wanna dance between being clever/complex and keeping it simple. God’s King first (baby) step to the throne that ended at the resurrection, was his birth. Some powerful (but pathologically insecure) rival Kings cast a long shadow, and a combination of ordinary folks, and immigrants rocked up. Go figure!

Exactly 1 month before Christmas, Chris will fly to the South Island for 2–3 weeks. While he’ll touch base with at least one church and some supporters, the main reason for the trip is to have a physical and spiritual reboot. There are a few days over this time (Nov 30 & Dec 2) that he’ll have to have some cellular coverage so he can ZOOM into meetings in Southeast Asia. Realise that this might come across as a bit messed up! After the advent decorations have been put away, we wanna keep in low (summer) revs/gears. We’ll have Christmas in the Hawkes Bay, but are expecting visitor before and after this. We’re sticking to the stay-cation model.

## Thanks!

We wanna finish our penultimate *Jollt* of 2020 with a short—but nonetheless sincere—note of thanks! You have not only downloaded, but almost read all this *Jollt*! We are aware that we live in a world of need—both in NZ and “overseas”. Furthermore, there are many good people making some seriously cool, contributions to the Kingdom coming on Earth. This is one of the many reasons for being so profoundly grateful for the following: Your ongoing interest, and support (as either a prayer, or a payer). We’re aware that interest and support come in more than one size and takes a number of forms. We’re just grateful.

End