

Electronic Jollts 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

[Feb 2021]

MOVEMENTS

Feb

15-21: Traveling in the upper NI, OMF meetings in Auckland.

28: Preaching in Palmerston North.

Mar

21: Speaking in St. Arnard.

PRAISE

1. For Sandra's handover, and that she is enjoying her new roles.

2. That we begin 2021 refreshed and thankful for having had so much quality time with family.

3. That 2020 ended with so many work-related encouragements.

4. For all the work completed on the not-so-tiny house.

5. That we are continuing to learn lots about how to intentionally serve the least and lost here in NZ.

6. For God's continued financial provision

7. That both Jolltettes are doing well.

Happy New Year! Apologies that over recent months writing *Jollts* was one of the things that dropped off our to-do list. We trust this newsletter finds you all well—and well rested and refreshed after completing the advent season, changing down gears, and sneaking more time with family and friends. This *Jollt* is going to be a bit longer than usual. Perhaps the wages of silence is length? Not only have we not written for a while, but there are also a number of things we want to write about.

Sandra continues to settle into her new member-care, and TCK (third culture kids) roles. We both been enormously encouraging and impressed by the professionalism of her hand over. It's a great joy that others appreciate where her experience, and many gifts can be locally utilised, and while our Wi-Fi connection on the farm is sometimes unreliable, she can work remotely. At the end of last year, she was also asked to join the leadership team which has been in place while OMF New Zealand continues to recruit a new national director.

Chris enjoyed his (almost) 3 weeks in the South Island, which began at the end of November. Although we need to schedule a proper visit to Christchurch in 2021, he managed to connect with most of our supporters and friends down there. He referred to his time down there as 2020's end-of-year physical and spiritual reboot. He hitchhiked everywhere for the first time in many years, which (as always) was a lot of fun. Most of his time was spent Te Anau where he did lots of walking. Sadly, he had to travel with his laptop as he had to occasionally sneak off and do some work.

While on the topic of work, we wanted to write about some significant encouragements that 2020 ended on—all of which were the fruit of a number of years of steady work. Firstly, Chris' first postgraduate student submitted his thesis at the University in Malaysia (where he has an adjunct position). This student is a (younger) practitioner with our organisation, who has lived in South Thailand (with his Thai wife and family) for a number of years. Secondly, his first (co-authored) journal article that Chris helped him with, was accepted by a very good academic journal. Thirdly, this student was offered one-year extension to his contract at the University Chris is affiliated with in Bangkok. It is difficult for foreigners to get a foot in this door. Great that it looks like he now has both feet in. About the same time, he was invited by a local Malay Muslim researcher to work with him on some of his projects. These sorts of professional connections mean that the quantity and quality of connections with a range of local Muslim communities to increase. While he will benefit from these, equally important is that others relocating to South Thailand with a heart to engage with Muslim heads and hearts, will also be helped make a good start. All these end-of-year encouragements are the fruit of years of consistent work which began with making some bold decisions about new ways to living and working in South Thailand. It's important to give credit, where credit is due. All glory to God who calls, sends, and trains (in that order) ordinary hacks to shepherd his harassed ewes, rams, and lambs (Mt 9: 36).

After getting back to Otaki from the South Island, we enjoyed another Advent season, and finishing the year with lots of shared meals. We spent four very relaxing days in the Hawke's Bay, before and after Christmas. On Dec 28, Sandra's family began their 5-day visit. Having more hands around meant that a number of projects got completed. These included completing the raised beds, re-doing the rustic greywater

PRAYER

1. For all the members—both adults and minors—that Sandra has input into.
2. For the meetings we will attend in Auckland, mid-Feb.
3. That our combined portfolio of local and global contributions will not only continue to take shape, but bear fruit.
4. For Chris as he speaks (for the first time in a long time) at his home church on Feb 28.
5. For the range of practitioners living and working in Southeast Asia that Chris continues to mentor.
6. For both the Jollettes as they begin their year of study and part-time work.

system off the barn whose kitchen, and outside (composting) toilet, and shower we use. These jobs were an important part of our contribution to preparing the farm to host 250 young people at a camp for young (18-30-year-old) activists that has become an annual event here. The camp was a lot of work, but it was a real privilege to be involved, despite most of us wandering around like zombies for a few ways after the pack down. Soon after this, Sandra's parents made another visit to help us complete painting the outside of the house—which now looks as nice as the inside has for a number of months. There aren't many more things that need to be done before officially clearing the not-so-tiny house completed. We feel incredibly blessed that in the middle of a housing crisis, we not only have a home, but one we can not only live in with extremely low overheads but provides us a base to continue to serve both here, and "there".

It has been said that most important things should be said more than once. This year's portfolio of local missional service, and wider strategic contributions (in both New Zealand and Southeast Asia) is slowly taking shape. In addition to Sandra's contributions, we are both grateful for what we are learning from our friends in Otaki about ways to serve the least, and the lost. We have working our way up some steep learning curves, including how local mental health services do (and don't) work. The same is true for the criminal justice system. A range of "hard cases" continue to come and go to the farm. Sandra's input into some of the kids is greatly appreciated. It's a great joy that people enjoy eating the big pots of food that we produce, is much as we enjoyed cooking them. Some days are busier than others, but we have chosen to emphasise making *use* of the time we *have*, than wishing we have *more*. Chris continues to write for the University in Bangkok but are still not signed another contract for 2021. Rather unexpectedly over the last couple of weeks, a number of individuals and institutions have sounded out about been involved. Most of these involve teaching and preaching. We think it safest to assume that travel to Southeast Asia will not be positive in 2021. As such, Chris will continue to work remotely – but he can do anywhere.

We want to conclude with some more mundane issues. Firstly, we want to remind you that we are funding all this as full members of OMF based in New Zealand. Our budget for 2021 is the same as it was for 2020, which required us to make a number of changes—which we were happy to do. We have noticed that we rarely receive any replies from these *Jollets*. Don't be too surprised if we contact you via another email address to check whether these have been landing in your spam folder!

