

Electronic JOLLY 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

[June 2021]

MOVEMENTS

10-14: Sandra in Auckland.

PRAISE

1. For Chris' productivity (writing-wise) in 2021.
2. That Sandra has settled into her role.
3. For the range of institutions in NZ that Chris has received.
4. That the Film Festival-ettes will soon get off the ground.

PRAYER

1. For Sandra's meetings in Auckland, that she keeps on top of admin, and continues to be a good listener whose words are wise & kind.
2. That the pinched nerve in Chris' neck will improve.
3. For big things to come out of the film festival-ettes
4. For the team in South Thailand whose movement is limited.
5. For our Indonesian partners who are working on when more mates can come to South Thailand.

It is often the case that we know something is about to happen when we see a sign. Leaves on poplar trees yield some yellow, so autumn is on its way. Buds on the magnolia tree begin to bloom, so winter is almost over. We begin to receive emails and phone calls from supporters asking for an update, so it's about time we wrote another newsletter!

A while back, we said something like having our "head in the clouds", while our "feet were either in the kitchen", or our "hands were on the tools". Life in Otaki continues to be full and fulfilling. Since the beginning of the year, Chris has been limited about what he can do around the farm as he has a pinched nerve in his neck, which is sending deferred pain down his right arm. As such, the main ways we are contributing up by cooking copious amounts of curries, and (for Sandra) childcare in the afternoons, which give others a break. Dramas with some of the people living here come and go. Some people are doing well. Some might be making bad decisions, but others are seen some real success. That's the way it goes. God is patient, and merciful. While we will never outdo Him, we will give it a go.

What about the ways we are serving beyond Otaki? Sandra has settled into her New Zealand (pastoral care, and TCK) roles. She was in Christchurch in May for a long weekend and has just left for Auckland where she has a series of meetings. In addition to this, she has been asked by our former colleagues in Southeast Asia to prepare and put for the (virtual) annual conference, that for many years she organised. Chris continues to work remotely for Bangkok. He is on target to the tick enough boxes. His postgraduate student successfully defended his thesis. He is in regular contact with the team in South Thailand. When doing so, he wears his coach/mentor – not "sage on the stage" – hat. Arguably the biggest development that we want to report on, is progress that Chris is made in increasing both how, and how much he is making some specifically local strategic contributions. He is given a number of guest lectures at Bible colleges, and Auckland. He is also accepted an invitation to teach a block course at East West College (in May 2022), as well as to come a research fellow at Laidlaw College. OMF New Zealand asked whether he would be willing to do more travelling and speaking for them. To cut a long story short, he counter proposed. Read on.

What about an interorganisational initiative that rolled out a series of mini film festivals at Bible colleges, seminaries, and large churches, around the country? "Film Festival-ettes" is a pilot project between OMF, SIM, and CMS. Working with others might be a miserable way of building an empire, but it's a great way of building His Kingdom. Our experience in Southeast Asia is that everyone gets more done, when you work together, as collaboration is much more effective than competition. The general format for this mini film festivals is very simple. On a Friday and Saturday night we will (a) prepare and share food, (b) view a film or documentary, which will be followed by (c) facilitated discussion. Rightly or wrongly, I don't think that people are gonna come out the listen to some weirdo with a big beard. What there was food, and a film/documentary, though?! While we firmly believe that if you wanna lead you gotta read, we appreciate that stories are to concepts what cups are to coffee. Jesus explained the kingdom of God through parables. The sentiments behind a bumper sticker like "redeem the screen!", and (more importantly) Paul's words to "take captive every thought" (2 Cor. 10:5) have also pushed us in this direction. Let us know if your church is interested in hearing more about these Film Festival-ettes.

Short reminder about the big picture reminder. We're in New Zealand for the foreseeable future. Though a big change for us, we continue to work for/with OMF. Sandra has two roles. The first is a general pastoral care role for OMF members. The second specifically supports parents bringing up third culture kids (TCKs). Chris is a research fellow at Thailand's largest university that requires him to write, which you can do remotely during this pandemic. This position opens multiple doors both for him, and others in Thailand, as well as wider in Muslim-majority Southeast Asia. He also supervises (postgraduate students), lectures (undergraduate students), and serving as pastor/coach/mentor. For both of us, our day-to-day bread and butter is leading a local missional lifestyle with fellow Holy fools and Jesus jesters, hanging out and helping hardcases.