HEY HO FOR 2021

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Some hopes for the next year (definitely not resolutions).
Category: Observations

After a couple of weeks' hiatus, it's back to work and to blogging. At the start of the year, I thought that it would be good to set out some personal goals for the next twelve months. These aren't so much resolutions as hopes.

Firstly, I'd like to try and keep up writing a blog post every working day. Some of what I write seems to be useful to people and the discipline is good for me. However, I'm aware that in order to keep writing, I do need to be absorbing material that can serve as an inspiration for thoughts and ideas. Some of the blog posts (an increasing number, perhaps) will take the form of videos.

In order to keep taking in information, I will need to continue reading. I've got a fairly large "to read" pile at the moment, but it is always difficult to discipline myself to read when I could be staring at the computer and pretending to produce something. Last year, I read around 130 books, but most of those were murder mysteries and didn't supply much inspiration for blogging. I also need to build into my routine the space to listen to podcasts and watch YouTube videos. There is a lot of good mission content being produced in these media, but I haven't worked out a way to fit then into my work schedule. I'm an inveterate podcast consumer, but that's when I'm out running and I like to keep that a "work free zone". I also tend to watch the odd YouTube video over lunch (generally from Cracking the Cryptic), but these are rarely very profound.

I've got another couple of work projects that are bubbling up. One is to do with the relationship between churches and mission agencies. It may turn into a book, or perhaps just a series of blog posts; I'm not sure yet. The other is to produce a series of videos on the future of mission with a couple of friends in the US. This is very exciting, but it is moving ahead much more slowly than we'd like, but we all have other things to do.

Over the next couple of months, there will be an hour-long interview with me broadcast on Premier Christian Radio in the UK and TBN will be showing an episode of Jesus the Game Changer series three which is all about Bible Translation and in which I feature rather heavily. Someone else does the work on these, which is rather good.

Like everyone else, I'm desperate for us to get on top of this rotten virus and for things to get back to something like normal. I'm naturally something of a pessimist, and I suspect that this will be a longer haul than most people are making out, but I wouldn't object to being wrong.

I've stopped writing about running on this blog (that content now appears here), but I should

mention that the big goal for the year is the 108 mile Spine Flare race in June. This is more than twice as long as anything that I've done before, so it should be "interesting". All of my running is now focussed on that goal, and with the help of a coach, I'm looking at quality, rather than quantity in my mileage.