

## MONTHLY MAIL REPORT

April 2021

Alison and I hosted an informal get-together yesterday at the home of our daughter and son-in-law, Alana and Angus Ramsay, for more than 50 old friends, some of whom we had not seen for more than 10 years. What a wonderful reunion it was! And Alison surprised me with a birthday cake for my 70th birthday which actually happened without celebration on 13 January before we left Zambia. We are indeed grateful for the love, friendship and support of so many here in New Zealand. Apparently New Zealand is one country perceived to be rather difficult to get into, so friends here seem happy to hear that we have in fact made it!

Last month we wrote about looking for sponsorship for Mabvuto Phiri, who was top of his class in the Grade 9 ECZ exams. We are very happy to report that Mabvuto's existing sponsor at Limapela Cedric's has agreed to continue the sponsorship at Chiwala Boys School in Ndola through our Onesimus scholarship fund. This Fund is proving very valuable for achieving young people who have not necessarily been pupils at Limapela.

In our absence, our Limapela Administrator, Margaret Diego, continues to work tirelessly with accountant Jane



Sometimes I hesitate to quote Scriptures, because not all of our readers embrace the Bible in the same way. But this month I am especially conscious of the words of Jesus, "No one knows about the day or the hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew 24: 36) Circumstances in the world have become so precarious over the past year that we would do well to wake up and pay attention to the signs. Jesus warned us not to be like the irresponsible and wicked servant entrusted with duties while the master is away who says, "My master is staying away a long time," and neglects his duties. And with all that is going on around us in today's world there is much to discourage us and distract us from our duties.



Would you sponsor Mathew Motoka? He is 9 years of age and is in Grade 2 this year. Contact us for more details.

Phiri and Head Teachers Martha Mbewe and Franchessca Mumba to ensure the smooth running of Limapela activities in Zambia. We are grateful to all these people. In addition to daily school needs, Margaret and our Zambian Directors are coordinating needs in our Compassion, Medical and Onesimus Departments. These needs have grown considerably over the past year and we now have some 20 people being helped in one way or another.

Fundraising has already started for a new Lower Primary Centre at Limapela Cedric's. This building is well overdue, and will provide three new classrooms so that no primary classes will need to share rooms or attend afternoon sessions. Our fundraising target is the equivalent of NZ\$ 151,800, and so far NZ\$ 27,500 has been raised. Do email us if this project interests you. Some donations may be matched. We will send more information when we have worked out the details.

Speaking and sharing engagements now beckon. We will begin to travel around NZ visiting family, friends and supporters at Easter time — first to Tauranga and Rotorua, then later in May we will spend some time in Palmerston North and the Wellington area.

Once again, our greetings and thanks to you all for your interest and support.

—Matthew and Alison Raymond