

## MONTHLY MAIL REPORT

June 2021

Today I had the privilege of being interviewed about Limapela by Andrew Urquhart for Radio Rhema. Being asked to look back on your work for the benefit of listeners who may not know anything about it makes you review the reasons you are doing it in the first place. How easy it is to overlook your objectives when you get immersed in the nuts and bolts! You can listen to that interview by following this link: <https://www.rhema.co.nz/shows/show/article/thelimapelafoundation>.

Over the past few days the number of Covid cases in Zambia has increased dramatically. Only a few people have been vaccinated there so far, so please pray that people will take the health warnings seriously. Our pupils continue to wear masks and follow the regulations in school. We enjoy getting regular messages from some of our young people, mostly via WhatsApp. Patricia Mwenda, a former member of the Kafakumba Singers, will be off to Medical School in Lusaka very soon now, and we have received a very good first term academic report from Chiwala Boys Secondary School on Mabvuto Phiri. Both of these are thanks to generous supporters of our Onesimus Fund.

Here in New Zealand, Alison and I have continued travelling and visiting supporters, family and interested churches. It has been special to reconnect with a number of people we had not seen for as long as 40 years. We travel to Waiheke Island for a service at St Paul's Presbyterian Church on 13 June, and then we expect to have an extended time based at the holiday cottage at Huia, near Auckland, where we have set up our home. At the end of July we will travel to New Plymouth and Christchurch. Do get in touch if you would like a visit.

As our time in Auckland has been longer than usual, we have organised a choir for nine weeks to enjoy singing together using some of the music that I have written or arranged over the past few years. Most of the singers in our new choir go back many years, and they clearly enjoyed being together again for the first practice last night.

People are asking about our plans to return to Zambia. I was hoping to go ahead of Alison around September, but am not able to fix any firm dates because of Covid restrictions and travel difficulties at present. Alison plans to remain in NZ for an extended time as her mother is now in full time care and her father, at nearly 95, needs a lot of support.

Alison was granted the NZ Government Superannuation in March, but mine was not granted until this week, after being initially turned down for reasons unknown. Despite the frustrating wait, we are grateful for a positive outcome. One of the perks of the Government Super is the Goldcard which allows free travel on bus, train and boat at certain times of the day.

Our thanks to you all once again for your interest, prayers and support.

—Matthew and Alison Raymond

