

MONTHLY MAIL REPORT

July 2021

RECENT NEWS FROM ZAMBIA about COVID-19 has been alarming. Over the past two weeks the number of cases and deaths in Zambia has increased dramatically. On 17 June the Government ordered all schools to close for three weeks. As events have unfolded since then, we anticipate that this may be longer. Our teachers will remain busy, and we will continue to pay their salaries, but sending lessons home to the pupils is very difficult.



Two of our orphans, Kondwani and Lusungu, who are enrolled at Amano, would do their lessons online if they had access to a computer. We are trying remotely to organise this, and if you are interested in helping us with the cost of a tablet or computer for them and Patricia Mwenda, who is about to go to Medical School in Lusaka, please get in touch. We wish of course that we were there in Zambia at this time to support our people, but that just isn't possible.

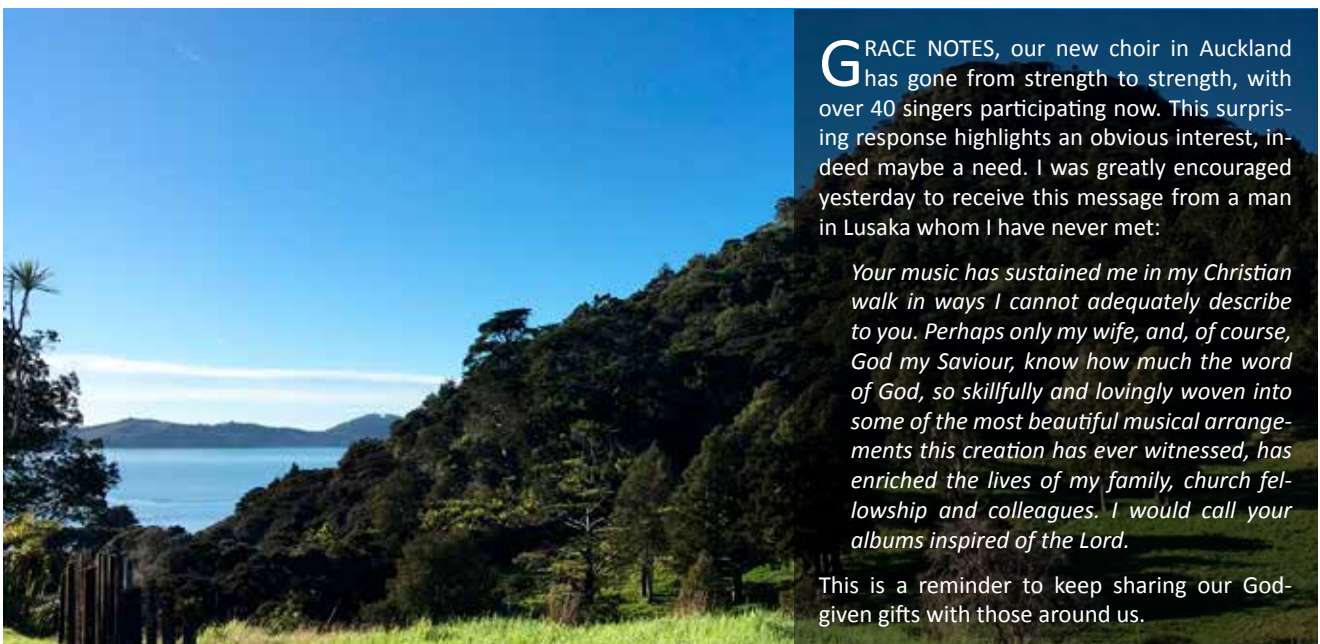
Here in COVID-free New Zealand, Alison and I have continued travelling and visiting. We have had a warm welcome over the past month at Waipu Presbyterian Church, and St Paul's Presbyterian on Waiheke Island. We are grateful to so many who support us and affirm the good things that are happening with Limapela. We are to participate at a missionary conference in New Plymouth at the end of this month, and will fly on to

Christchurch for the first two weeks of August to spend time with my brother Walter and sister-in-law Gillian. While in the South Island we will travel further south to Invercargill (ice and snow permitting!) to visit the Rotary Club of Invercargill East which generously supported our Luyando Ablutions Project in 2017.

On our return to Auckland we are scheduled for the first of our COVID vaccinations on 17 August. That should clear at least one obstacle for our return to Zambia.

We are grateful for your continuing interest, prayers and support.

—Matthew and Alison Raymond



GRACE NOTES, our new choir in Auckland has gone from strength to strength, with over 40 singers participating now. This surprising response highlights an obvious interest, indeed maybe a need. I was greatly encouraged yesterday to receive this message from a man in Lusaka whom I have never met:

Your music has sustained me in my Christian walk in ways I cannot adequately describe to you. Perhaps only my wife, and, of course, God my Saviour, know how much the word of God, so skillfully and lovingly woven into some of the most beautiful musical arrangements this creation has ever witnessed, has enriched the lives of my family, church fellowship and colleagues. I would call your albums inspired of the Lord.

This is a reminder to keep sharing our God-given gifts with those around us.