

St Andrew's URC (Walton) **ArtPeace** Initiative

STONY BROKE: In up market suburbs of Harare there is unbelievable wealth owned by the few. Car parks are full of expensive vehicles ranging from Mercedes to black Hummers. In other urban, rural areas and displacement camps out of sight and out of mind, numerous people including ArtPeace live in prefabricated



wooden cabins and plastic shacks minus windows and sanitation where garbage rots in mounds along the roadside and sewage flows on eroded pot holed roads. Most rural homes fail to produce enough food to meet their needs. The World Food Programme (WFP) state that 72% of the population lives below the national poverty line or less than US\$1.25 a day (75p). Example from artist Shingira: [‘This woman’s husband left her with a small child. She ekes a living crushing stones with a hammer and rises early to look for large stones to reduce in size to 20mm. This is hard work and it takes a long time to fill a wheelbarrow which she sells for 3 US\\$.’](#)

WATER CRISIS: ArtPeace have gone for years without running water and like many desperate residents are reduced to drawing water from unprotected shallow wells or streams (left) to use for cleaning toilets, washing or watering their vegetable patches. Some artists who live in Mabvuku buy water from stores at 60 litres for \$2. Others buy 3 buckets of drinking water for a dollar from merchants who call daily to collect money and buckets which they return to their doorsteps. Water boreholes are running dry as the water table is so low as there is competition for underground water.



TINY HANDS: The lovely family (right) help their mother to run

this little vegetable stall by the roadside. They work hard in the fields to grow the produce. They somehow manage to survive on the proceeds but I suspect at the expense of an education.

BACK TO SCHOOL! Farai the orphan (below left), mentioned in the September NL has returned to school with our support. Artist Godwin said 'Farai really appreciates what St Andrew's has done for her and wants God to bless everyone and their families.' Isabel (left) also an orphan, is supported by one of the congregation.



Both girls look resplendent in their new uniforms and shoes. As well as annual fees we covered winter and summer uniforms, dresses, blazers, satchels, shoes, socks and stationary. They are two of six orphans we now support, the others being Fradreck and his sister Catherine, Jonah and his sister Alice. All the children appear to be doing well at school and are so appreciative of being given the chance of an education. For example, Isabel's midterm results read as follows: English 69%, Shona 71%, Mathematics 75%, History 72%, Geography 77%, Physics 70%, Chemistry 73%, Biology 80%, Accounts 79%, Food and nutrition 82%. Isabel sits her 'O' level exams next year and asked me to pass on these words to her sponsor: 'Dear Auntie, I want to thank you for all the support, care and love you have shown me. I appreciate all you have

done for me. My ambition is to become a doctor and look after orphans as you are doing for me. Auntie, my world has changed since you came into my life now that I can go to school each day without fear of being sent home due to lack of fees. May God bless you. Yours, Isabel.'

A DAY TO REMEMBER: I sent some funds late in August to cover an outing for lots of orphans mentioned in past articles. Godwin took them to the big Agricultural Show outside Harare where they had a whale of a time. This was probably their first ever outing. They saw lots of interesting sights and enjoyed a large meal – a change for Charles (below left) and his little brother Tanya, who were forced to eat crickets for their evening meal (ref Sept. NL). It was great to see all the photos showing the children enjoying themselves away from their normal impoverished backgrounds. Sadly, space forbids me from sharing more of these photos. Over the months and indeed years, I have endeavoured to give you a balanced flavour of life amongst our friends in Zimbabwe. Often the stories and photos are grim but the spirit of these marvellous people shines through. All the photos in this article were taken by the artists. Through our **Harvest Collection** shared between Commitment for Life and ArtPeace we **can**, by the grace of God, change the lives of many impoverished men, women and children throughout the world.

Johnston Simpson

