

St Andrew's URC ArtPeace Initiative



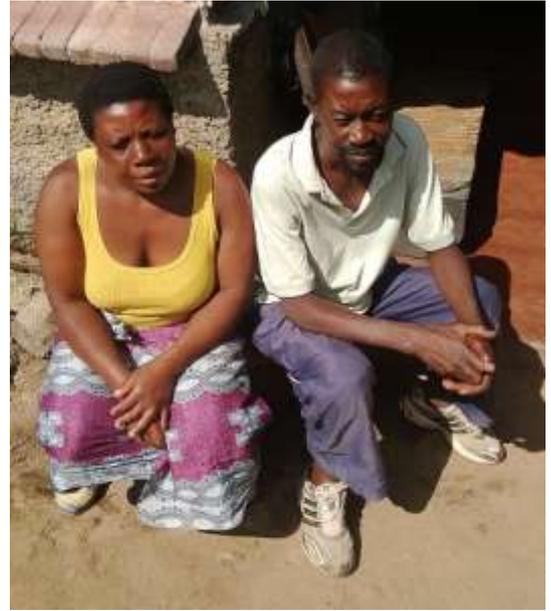
ONE CABBAGE BETWEEN EIGHTEEN! St Andrew's has had its own share of sadness recently and I hesitate to add to this but in all my years' involvement with Zimbabwe, the current situation appears to be at an all time low. I sought the view of a good Jesuit friend who works tirelessly for the poor. He replied: 'John, the general situation in Zim today is much worse than 5 yrs ago. In those last 5 yrs hundreds, if not thousands, of businesses have closed hence many more thousands are unemployed. Plus, many people still working do not receive salaries. As a result, a huge number of children have to leave school, as parents have no money for school fees. Reason for the death of the economy? Corruption wherever you turn and impossible labour conditions. Huge cuts in your income or investments going straight



into the pocket of you know who... Sunday last, the chaplain of the largest prison with over 2000 inmates came begging for money to buy cabbages for the prisoners who had not eaten for several days. Result? Riot and wanting to kill the guards! We bought those cabbages: for them: one between 18 prisoners per meal! 200 dollars did not last long. Today I gave them 550 dollars to buy a beast. They last tasted meat exactly one year ago'.

ARTPEACE: Godfrey William (left) one of our best artists is in a pitiful state at home with TB and has lost half of his body weight. He has one free injection a day but a shortage

of food means his drugs do not have the desired effect causing nasty side effects. Michael Mukolosi (right), seen sitting outside a clinic with his worried wife Faina is waiting for an appointment. He suffers from a psychiatric disorder caused by stress. Word is filtering through that Peter Kananji who tragically lost his 5 month son last year has breathing difficulties. Mike Masedza's eyesight is failing but cheap spectacles are beyond his means. Lizeni's mother Ambuya, died a week ago and all proceeds from her last sale (Feb NL piece), went towards the funeral. Morale is at rock bottom!



TRYING TO HOLD IT TOGETHER: Some artists have had to sell their mobiles so contact is limited. The few left with mobiles are forced to grovel for a few dollars to cover costs of sending photos with news. However, they realise these articles are a vital lifeline with their friends in the UK. Modern Smart mobiles are marvellous and virtually our only link so should anyone be able to provide a good used or new Smart phone with a decent camera this would be of enormous benefit. These are not luxury items but almost essentials.



DONATIONS courtesy a coffee morning from Toller URC, money from two friends at Fleetwood URC plus support from several members of St Andrew's has just arrived and created a flurry of excitement. Some families can go several weeks without seeing a dollar so imagine the relief when any gifts arrive! It's like Christmas and hits the mark every time.



GREAT IDEA FROM MARLOW URC! Martin Beck, an elder of Christ Church, Marlow and a tremendous supporter of our ArtPeace project has kindly offered to make a short different style of video using still photos of the artists, their work plus some details of their living conditions. He hopes to eventually show this in the church sanctuary prior to a service. The artists are delighted with this initiative and welcome any publicity in the hope that people may be interested in their art and perhaps enthused to make a purchase giving sales a much needed boost!



(Above: Lion in lepidolite stone by Celphas Zvirevo).

NEW HOME FOR GOGO: Artist Godwin sent this account: ‘Gogo Moyo looks after her grandson Jake (7) who lost both parents and live at a displacement camp but their little home collapsed after four days of heavy rain at the start of the year. Her belongings were ruined and they became homeless but people came and built this shed. Her grandson does not attend school as she has no money for fees. She travels every day to try



and find firewood and spends much time begging. Next to her shed gogo grows a little maize on stony ground but sorely needs fertiliser. Sadly due to years of trauma her mind appears to be going since her husband left her. They do not have much of a life’.

LUCKY LIFT: When artist Fortune Masiyiwa visited relations in Chinhoyi over Christmas, thanks to a friend, he managed to procure some lovely Opal stone from a nearby mine – see photo right. Note the woman in the background washing her clothes in a stream. Fortune said: ‘I was lucky as I managed to get the stone back to Tafara in this truck (photo extreme right with Fortune in foreground) taking some people to a funeral but it was a long uncomfortable journey as the roads were flooded. We all had to get out several times and push the truck stuck in mud. Everything is hassle in Zimbabwe!’



CONCERNED! My new courier contact at St Francis Xavier in Harare, Tima and I, have been swapping photos and news about our respective churches. She was concerned at the size of St Andrew’s congregation and age profile: see below comparison photo of a section of her congregation at a recent Sunday afternoon service. Photo right - overflow from church! Most people stayed for an all night service praying for world peace which lasted from 5pm to 4am the following morning! I doubt they have a fraction of the financial resource enjoyed by St Andrew’s but their faith knows no bounds. Our Development Committee, Minister and Elders have made a tremendous effort and put



much thought into a vision for the vestibule and St Andrew’s continued future in an attempt to reach out to the Community. They pray for maximum support from the congregation at our extraordinary church meeting on 1st March. The thought of simply sitting tight and hoping for the best is surely a recipe for disaster with perhaps shades of ‘The Parable of the Talents’. A larger more streamlined vestibule will, amongst other ideas, allow St Andrew’s to highlight their efforts on various mission fronts etc. including ArtPeace by opening up the church some week days instead of only the usual two hours on a Sunday. Who knows, perhaps one day we may enjoy a church bursting at the seams like St Francis Xavier! Let’s make it happen!

Johnston Simpson

SAMPLE OF PIECES IN SHED AVAILABLE FOR SALE (suitable for mantelpiece).

Many thanks to those who purchased some pieces from the display in February article. The sales proceeds are now with the artists.

AFFECTION

in Fruit Serpentine

by Lizeni Nasho



FISH STANDING ON HEAD

in Chínhoyi stone

by Fortune Masiyiwa



PAIR OF QUAILS

by Peter Kananjú



Budding Flower

in Fruit Springstone by Peter Kananjú



Banana Head

by Lizeni Nasho



Bird *in cobalt by Togara*



Penguins *by Michael Mukolosi*

Hippo *in dolomite by Celphas Zvirevo*



Leaf within a Leaf *in dolomite by Celphas Zvirevo*



Lion in semi precious lepidolite by Celphas Zvířev



Snail in leopard Rock by Moses

African Princess

In fruit springstone

by Peter Kananji



Elephant

in semi precious verdite

by Victor Mutongwizo



Elephant *in Lepidolite*

by Godwin Nassho



Young Kudu

by Itai Phiri



