

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS (ZIMBABWE)

HARD AT WORK: In comparison to the wet conditions in much of the UK, our friends are patiently waiting for the rains to sow maize. However the long dry grass surrounding Silveira



House has its uses by providing thatch for roofing their modest pole shelters to enable sculpting to continue during inclement conditions (photo left: a busy Coster). It is good to see Mike Mukolosi (right) looking so much better after many months of psychiatric problems. Mike carved our big Harvest sculpture. All the artists are working hard trying to earn a crust whether by selling home grown vegetables or sculpting. The pressure on them lifted last month thanks to our Harvest donations. Artist Lovemore James echoed the



thoughts of others by saying: [‘John - it was such a relief not having to worry about food or rents for once. How nice it would be if life was always like this and we could live like normal people’](#).



ECSTATIC: 100 US dollars of our donation went to Eunice Patrick and the five orphans (left) she now supports and whose home was demolished. Again, the money was spent on food, rent and some new clothes including shoes and second-hand school uniforms. She also managed to cover school fees for two of the orphans. The family want to express their heartfelt thanks to the congregation so take a bow St. Andrew's and friends; you have done them proud! Photo



above right: Tsitsi and Angel looking thrilled to bits about to set off for school. I know how much people enjoy these photos and seeing how their money is being put to good use.

SILVEIRA HOUSE: Our donations stretched to helping three friends in the Skills (craft) dept. at Silveira House. For example, the photo below left, shows Viola making tie and dye items in the traditional style. Viola is a very kind soul and helps several widows. David below right makes beaded necklaces day in day out with few around to buy them. He supports his wife Elizabeth but times are desperately hard and they struggle to exist living under a blue tarpaulin stretched over a metal frame at a nearby displacement camp. They were delighted with their gifts.



IDEA: Our band of artists continues to expand. Whilst the current emphasis is getting Nativity sets to Southwark Cathedral's shop where there is a demand, our Gateway offers further potential. We hope shortly to mount a small but permanent tabletop corner display on one of the worktops. This may interest visitors young and old and even encourage a few sales. Photo: Penguin in stone and ebony by Brighton Layson.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Artpeace, Skills and friends wish their Christian brothers and sisters in the UK a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. They cannot afford Christmas cards or postage but instead, offer this lovely photo of a zebra taken by artist Ignatius Chinyama when he visited relations about 50 km from Mukumburu. Ignatius walked 25 km to visit a game park but was afraid to venture too far as buffalo, leopard and elephants were in evidence! **Johnston Simpson**



CHILDREN'S CORNER



These Zimbabwean children can expect few if any Christmas presents as their parents are either very poor or they are orphans. They live in very simple homes like the shack behind them. They have no electricity, water and even toilet facilities may be some distance away. They often go hungry. However, they love playing simple games and most days the sun shines and it becomes very warm unlike our country! Fortune, one of our stone carvers took this photo of the children when visiting friends. He thought that UK children would like to see a few of his country's interesting reptiles and insects. The first photo shows a Murarabungu Lizard or in English, a Rainbow Lizard and you can see why. How many colours can you spot?



Fortune said they are very timid but move like lightening. The other two photos were taken by Fortune



and show Dung Beetles which feed partly or wholly on cow or elephant dung which they roll into balls and often bury. A dung beetle can bury dung 250 times heavier than itself in one night! **JS**