

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

NO RESPITE: Godfrey William, one of the founder members of Artpeace and their best artist,

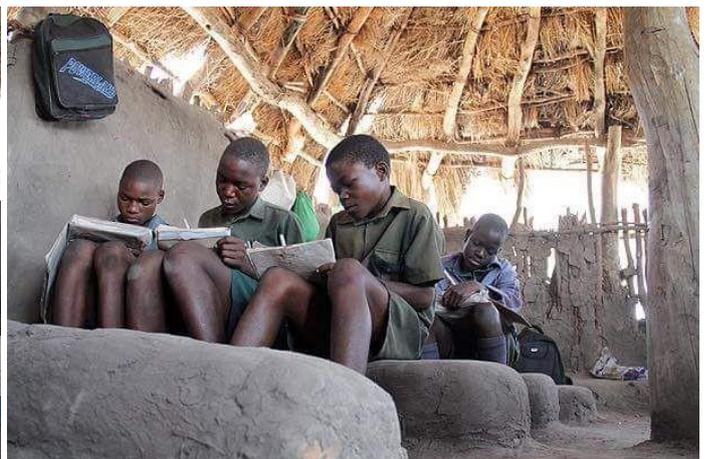


feels wretched and is bedridden. With our support he recovered from tuberculosis only last year which left its mark but he is now emaciated and bedevilled with badly ulcerated legs and constant irritation which limits sleep. His HIV condition also complicates matters. Godfrey is so frustrated at not having the strength to sculpt as sales are his only means of putting food on the table and buying medicines not to mention covering his children's education. Fortunately, whilst at the Windermere URC Centre last week on a painting course with Susan, Wendy Slattery from Fleetwood URC gave me a useful donation from her church so this, plus sales from Windermere, will soon hopefully help ease Godfrey's pain. I sense he feels we are his last hope and his frequent text messages cry out for help.

Godfrey's strange dream: 'John, I do not sleep much with the pain but I had a dream last night. Three giant beings were pushing and pulling me to a strange place and I did not want to go. However, I broke free and started running towards a river. These strange beings did not catch me as I dived into the river and swam to the opposite bank. A huge bird like an owl miraculously appeared and carried me away. I looked down and saw the beings crossing the river trying to grab me. The huge bird landed safely and set me free. I woke up frightened and

started praying. My wife and I both think there must be a moral to this dream.'

Zimbabwe's banks run out of money! Hundreds of people fortunate to have a bank account waste many hours each day queuing to draw enough of their own money to cover daily expenses but are often told 'come back tomorrow!' The truth is that Zimbabwe is running out of money! The British embassy have recently updated their travel advice for Zimbabwe stating that: 'It is not currently possible to make cash withdrawals using an international bank card in the country.' Food prices are escalating with 80 percent now imported from South Africa. On the pavements, people with O Levels, A levels and University degrees sell tomatoes, onions, bananas, air time, clothes, cell phones, watches and more. They don't do it because they want to but because there are no jobs. 36 years after Independence an estimated 90% of Zimbabweans are unemployed. 'Artpeace deprive themselves of basics to cover school fees knowing that an education is vital for their children's survival and future elsewhere', said Godwin Nasho. The photo below shows the poor infrastructure of some rural schools but Godwin said: 'Despite poor accommodation and furniture, learning still takes place so young children are equipped with knowledge and skills to use in later life'.





Kettering concert: I have just received the good news from Hazel Bembridge at Toller URC, Kettering that Dr. Martyn Warsop, a church elder and organist, is also a great supporter of Artpeace. To celebrate his 60th, Martyn is organising a concert on 30th July with music from piano, organ and ukulele and hopefully a vocalist. Invitations will go to his friends including fellow organists. Proceeds are very kindly being donated to Artpeace. The artists are overjoyed and extremely grateful.

Help required: Artist Peter Kananji reports: [The Chikomos live in dreadful conditions at Proton Farm - 23km from me.](#) Whilst entering the door one night, their father was bitten by a snake so is now in hospital. I visited this family who are crying as their father is still in



hospital. He is not responding to treatment and his leg is badly affected. They don't know what type of snake bit him so needs a special doctor. It costs money to see this doctor. Chipo the mother in above photo with baby Golden on her back cannot even afford the bus fare to visit her husband so is depressed. It's cold here and our winter. The family have no blankets or wood for the fire - imagine. Can you help? Other photo shows her other two children, Charles and Tinas.

Coming soon! Jewellery by Tawanda Bhele who specialises in bangles made from copper, brass and steel and a selection of small animals in superb stone by talented sculptors all desperate to find buyers for their work to support their families. **Johnston Simpson**

