

ST ANDREW'S URC (WALTON) INITIATIVE



STRUGGLE FATIGUE: Communications from our friends this past month has all but died. Everyone is struggling to get by so there is no money for text messaging. Teddy Masedza's wife Constance died recently from TB. He was forced to beg for money to cover modest funeral costs but hit a stumbling block when the hospital mortuary refused to release her body for burial until he settled his medical bill. Meanwhile, interest is being added weekly! It has not been this bad for several years. One commentator calls it 'Struggle fatigue'. After fourteen years striving for change, most adult Zimbabweans who lived through terror and loss have run out of energy and motivation to fight. Confusion, resignation & weary head shaking are the most common responses to events in Zimbabwe.

SALES: Susan and I have been busy topping up the Southwark Cathedral shop and our URC Windermere Centre with sculptures. We also ran a sale at Christ the Prince of Peace Church in Weybridge. Unfortunately this fell on the same evening as England's first World Cup match so the turnout was poor but it was nice to see a few folk from St A's. The combined effort of £1550 from these sales including some purchases from 'The Shed' was worth the effort and will lift our friends. Let's hope their children dance for joy like the 'Happy Girl' piece (right), one of 2 sculptures recently displayed in St Andrew's porch. This delightful piece is now available for sale. The sister piece 'Mother Playing with Child' was bought by a Weybridge lady, a long time supporter of ArtPeace.



MAE HONG SON CALLING: I received an email from Ashleigh Callow, a remarkable young lady who, whilst with Jesuit Missions Wimbledon, acted as a link between schools in Zimbabwe



and the UK. Photo left: Ashleigh with a few artists at Silveira House in happier times in 2007 helped our project in many ways, not least as a courier. She was born in Zimbabwe and moved to England eight years ago. Her great grandfather was a Presbyterian minister in India. Now based in Mae Hong Son, Ashleigh (below), teaches English at a refugee camp in the jungles of Thailand near the border with Burma. She said: *'In terms of poverty here, people are very much at the margins in camp. There is no electricity or water supply and they are not allowed to leave camp to look for employment which, of course, creates frustrations and dependency issues. Homes are simple bamboo structures and people have very*

little by way of possessions. They sleep on the floor and could not live more simply.' There was a recent military coup and although a curfew is in force, it is comparatively quiet in Mae Hong Son. Ashleigh sent me half a dozen beautifully woven items to sell: scarves, shawls and runners for which the country is famous, provided by WEAVE (Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment), a NGO committed to teaching women to become socially, economically and politically empowered. *If there is enough interest from the congregation, we could mount a small table-top sale of these exquisite colourful woven goods combined with a few small ArtPeace crafts in the hall after a service in July. Please let me know your thoughts.*





Photos taken by Ashleigh. Above left, a student weaving. Right: woven items displayed at a local WEAVE shop. Below: Fields of yellow daisies. Although a remote misty area, Mae Hong Son is called the 'Switzerland of Thailand'. Right: the end of the Buddhist 'Lent'. **Johnston Simpson**



A SELECTION OF ARTPEACE ART AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM 'THE SHED'.

