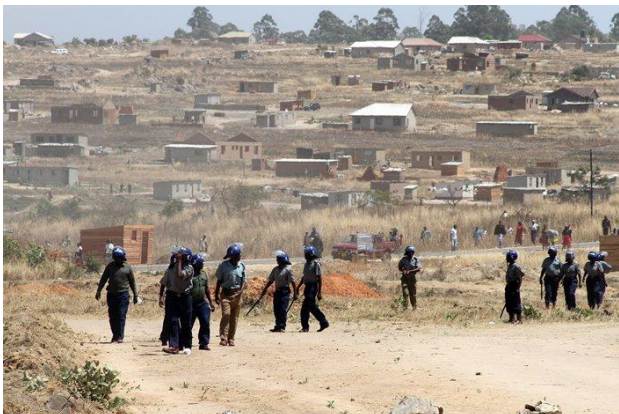


ARTPEACE & FRIENDS (ZIMBABWE) INITIATIVE

BULLDOZED! In our Harvest Appeal letter, I wrote about Coster Balakasi's move to a small wooden cabin following ejection from his modest home owing to rent arrears. Coster and family thought life could not get much worse but how wrong they were! A fortnight ago five bulldozers arrived accompanied by over 100 riot police officers. Several thousand homes including his were destroyed. Part of this displacement camp is owned by a consortium but a court ruling stated that many homes were erected illegally - a seemingly dubious decision which the consortium is



fighting. Coster said: *'They did it in a barbaric way without giving the residents any notice so many families were left homeless including me.'* Coster, his wife and 2 children are now

scattered staying with friends. I believe other artists are affected but I have lost touch as they are broke and cannot afford to text me. **Photos:** Top - taken by a friend shows Coster standing in what appears a war zone, looking disconsolately at the remains of his home; his dreams of a better life for his family dashed. Bottom right shows the rubble of neighbour Faith and siblings' home - her story follows. Other photos of bulldozer and riot police are by Kudakwashe Hunda.

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY: Many thousands of poor Zimbabweans struggle against impossible odds and this latest incident has devastating effects. A week before her home was



destroyed, Coster relayed his neighbour Faith's story. The family are orphans. Coster said: 'Faith 15, tries to look after her siblings, Emmanuel 4, Angel 9, Lucy 11 and Tsitsi. None of the children go to school and food is scarce. Faith the eldest is selling her body in order to survive and support the family. She has contracted syphilis. Some neighbours scraped together 20 dollars so she could see a consultant to arrange a scan. She is now very poorly and in hospital. A good Samaritan is looking after the siblings. Others gave what they could in terms of blankets, clothes and a little food. Faith is hoping she will recover and dearly wants to return to school and forget all about her previous bad way of living but she had no choice'. Now Faith has no home to return to! Donations from three members of Fleetwood URC and St Andrew's have been sent to

the families. The forthcoming Harvest Appeal will hopefully help many others! Photo by Coster.

WINDERMERE URC CENTRE: Susan and I spent an enjoyable week at Windermere. Since our June visit, £477 worth of crafts have been sold - great news for our friends! I topped up the display alcove (right) which is proving a hit with visitors. Artists keen for our support are growing which is perhaps just as well as some Artpeace members are simply too harassed to carve, trying to maintain a roof over their heads. Many of these new artists are very talented and are introducing new styles and techniques to widen our range.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL SHOP: Sales for August were higher than usual and a push is now on with the support of the CAFOD team in Harare and their London office to get lots of beautiful Nativity Sets and crosses by our artists over in time for Christmas. One of Luke Jimu's Nativity designs may feature on Dean Andrew Nunn's Cathedral Christmas cards with a reference to Artpeace which will hopefully boost sales.

THE GATEWAY: Subject to enough pieces being available, an exhibition/sale of Artpeace work may take place in our new space later this year. Sample pieces below L to R: **'Sharing Secret'** by Smart Mumvuri; **'Family'** by Charles Fundisi based on childhood memories; **'Young Lady'** by Itai Phiri; **'Flower'** by Temba Nyanhema. **Johnston Simpson**

