

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**HARVEST CHEER:** Some readers will have been interested in the artists' progress growing maize sown last November. After one of the longest droughts on record, rains brought life to their fields although at one stage, there were fears that the incessant rains would wash away the plants. However, early maturing seed and various fertilizers covered by several URCs helped enormously and the rains eventually stopped! Once the cobs were stacked to dry then cleaned, sculpture sales proceeds covered their transport costs to the mills where the maize, their staple food, is ground into mealie meal.



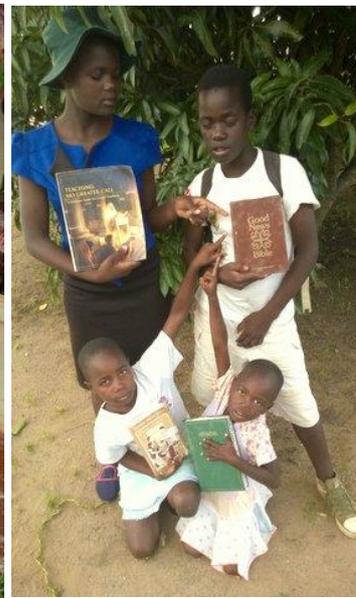
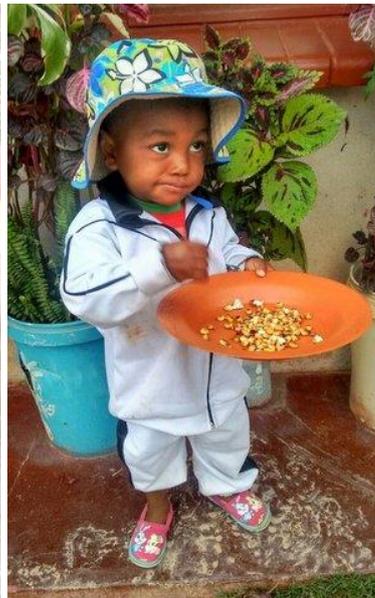
Photos L to R: Lizeni by her crop; children cleaning cobs; Fortune's wife Norah sitting by her cabin holding pumpkins with some of their crop.



**MEDICINAL!** Above L to R: a widow's children cared for by artist Mike Masedza as part of his extended family showing delight at the size of this year's cobs; the clusters of wild red cosmos flowers at base of maize crop awaiting harvesting, sprout when it rains and the artists tell me their leaves are cooked as a vegetable. Chewing any part of the plant also relieves tummy trouble.

😊 **ARTPEACE** enjoyed a BUMPER crop which will feed their families for quite a few months. They are so grateful for all our support. It's good to have some good news to share for a change!

**TREAT:** Photos below left: Artist Peter Kananji's son Simbarashe is making Maputu – a sort of



popcorn made from maize and flavoured with salt. **Photo**

**centre:** Surprise, his baby brother is not convinced that the taste is to his liking!

**Photo left: GOOD NEWS BIBLES:** Many of St Andrew's old Good News Bibles have found a home in Africa

and elsewhere including one welcomed by children at artist Fortune's church.

**CROSSROADS** – Thoughts and photos supplied by artist Christine Ndoro: 'The crossroads of footpaths we have created inside our maize fields reminds me of our lives in Zimbabwe and the inner conflict of our day to day lives. The economy is hard and we struggle daily to make the right choices - where to work, what to do, how to change the systems that bind and enslave



us, teaching our children well and giving them morals yet bribes are demanded as commission for trade.

Accepting that as an individual, I cannot change my country but start within the circle I operate and am'. **Photo above right:** 'It is a consolation that even in these hard times the sun shines on us too as Zimbabwe, renewing our hope as it rises every new day, lighting our personal paths to becoming better, stronger people than we were yesterday'.



**SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL INITIATIVE:** Jon Dollin, Southwark's Shop Manager has informed me he is meeting developers soon with a view to a complete revamp of the Cathedral's website. Initial thoughts are that the only products to be shown will be their Doorkin's cat range and Artpeace! The shop page will be an integral part of the whole Cathedral site. There will be a scrolling gallery of images and of the artists plus biographies. Also, a link to the Artpeace section of St Andrew's URC website! All exciting stuff and the artists are thrilled.

**BUT,** despite all this positive news, Zimbabwe continues to stagnate. A recent message from artist Peter pleaded to friends for a dollar to help towards cost of moving his maize harvest to the mill for grinding. Money is now so tight in that people who struggled before are now not coping at all and beg, borrow or go without because everyone is broke. Leaders seem oblivious to the plight of the poor people like Artpeace, desperately trying to meet their month end commitments and maintain a thin veneer, a pretence that everything is fine. Churches are full as their faith remains strong and hope still burns bright that justice *will* prevail one day. Thank you for reading this.



**Johnston Simpson**