

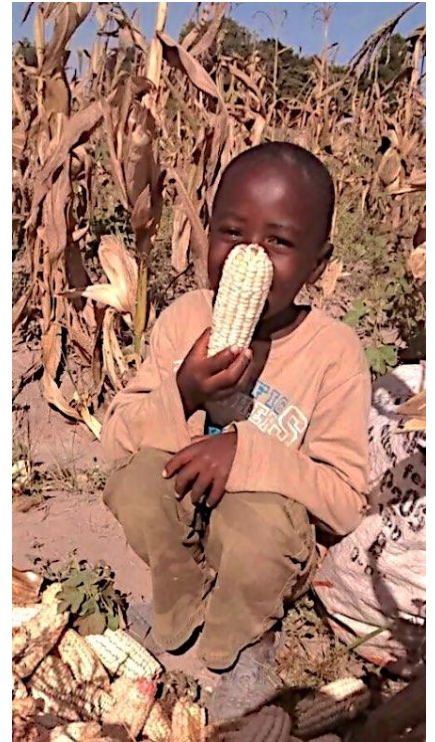
ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

is the United Reformed Church's exciting focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission. It moves beyond a set of programmes into the world, where each step we take is accompanied by Jesus, helping us to bring about change in our own lives and, ultimately, in Church culture and society; see the new logo above left.

I daresay some poor people in Zimbabwe heard or watched parts of the Royal Wedding on television and would have enjoyed the spectacle, but I wonder what went through their minds seeing all the opulence on display not least dresses reputed to cost tens of thousands of pounds, but they enjoy celebrating and would be too polite to criticise. There is an old Scottish saying in my neck of the woods – 'the world and its money are sair pairted' referring to the grossly unfair distribution of wealth. It certainly made me think as the past few months have been depressing in terms of poor sculpture sales with funds at an all-time low, but our friends just grit their teeth and make the best of things. However, recent news cheered me immensely. Firstly, this lovely mischievous photo of Takudzwa, Shingi's son – all thanks to Marlow URC'S generous funding of seed and fertiliser last November. Shingi said: [This year I got less harvest than last year because of the long heavy rains followed by intense sunshine which burnt some plants but we will still eat for 4 or 5 months.'](#)



More good news came in the form of a generous cheque from Hazel Bambridge on behalf of one of Toller (Kettering) URC's activity groups. Toller treat ArtPeace as one of their own and it's heart-warming. **Also**, artist Coster Balakasi sent this photo of his new home which he is



building himself brick by brick after scrimping and saving over two years. He is now working on the roof but needs more money to fix windows and plastering. The family had a good harvest. Look at Emma his wife, breaking down the cobs to take to the mill for grinding into meal.

Artist Fortune on church involvement: ‘Our church has a congregation of around eighty comprising of plumbers, electricians, builders, motor mechanic, bakers, barbers - those who are qualified in their fields although there is not much work around. Our church organised

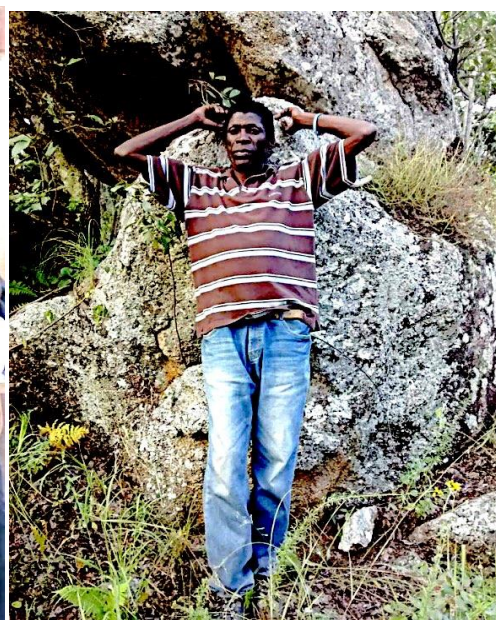
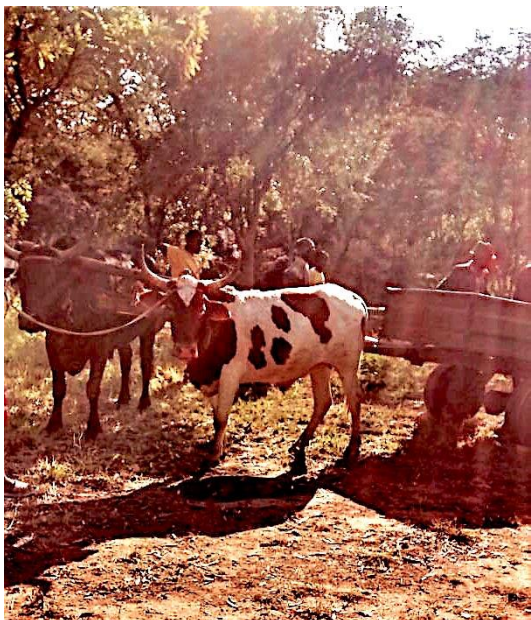


courses for these tradesmen and women to teach other members their skills. E.g., if you are a motor mechanic then a barber can teach how to cut hair – it’s like an exchange program. I attended a course on how to make doors, window frames etc. Our church are encouraging people to learn more skills so I in turn, will have to teach others on sculpting. Our church helps to equip each other with basic skills like baking bread, cookery, sewing cloths. Next time we cover building, plumbing and roof maintenance – our church wants our country to be



better equipped for the future. The church supplies refreshments but materials are a challenge.’

I try to give a balanced view of the artists’ relentless problems incorporating occasional good news but soon after I had written the above, news came in to remind us all just how hard life is



for many Zimbabweans. Shingi and Mike Masedza attended the funeral of Moud, a 30-year-old cousin. Shingi said: ‘There are two children (centre) left behind, the first born Tariro and the second born is called Munashe which means God with Us. Those cattle and cart (left) are for transporting the body of Moud. Her husband ran away after she died because he didn’t pay lobola so by now the children are looking for help with school fees and food. These orphans have no one to look after them.’ Right: Artist Mike Masedza – tired and contemplative after the funeral. ArtPeace are comforted that some Churches and friends are **‘Walking the Way’** and still supporting them – it makes such a difference!

Johnston Simpson