

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

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**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who either donated or bought a sculpture in December ensuring that at least our artist friends had some sort of Christmas – many families in Zimbabwe were not so fortunate (see photo below). The artists were delighted and relieved to receive dollars to buy a chicken - a rare treat for them. Most meals consist of home-grown vegetables. However, around November to December some families harvest Mupane worms - caterpillars from the Mupane tree when in leaf. The photo below shows artist Herbert's friend Mhizhath with

his lunch. These caterpillars grow into a species of beautiful large but sadly short-lived Emperor moths (left). They are very nutritious, and are reputed to be delicious – orders anyone ☺? Yet another year has passed without any improvement to poor Zimbabweans' standard of living despite the appointment of a new leader. The situation is



deteriorating and approaching the desperate levels of 2008. A month-long impasse between government and striking junior doctors over pay and conditions has left Zimbabwe's health care system in a critical state, after the government suspended more than 500 doctors and radiographers. Junior doctors earn just \$329 a month, despite many years of training and study and say they cannot support a family on this sum. There is also a chronic shortage of medical supplies and equipment in hospitals. Hundreds of teachers, nurses and senior doctors have



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joined this prolonged junior doctors' strike. There is also a chronic shortage of medical supplies and equipment in hospitals. Imagine how ArtPeace cope with no formal employment, simply a daily scramble to raise a few dollars. *Our continued support is vital to all these families and new initiatives may be necessary as raising funds is getting much harder.*

**Life changing:** The December newsletter featured Lovemore's 14-year-old daughter Enviolata's distress at not being able to attend school and having to work in the fields. Two ladies kindly



responded to her plight so a delighted Enviolata (left), started school in January looking immaculate in her new uniform. Make no mistake, this is a life changer for this young lady! Lots of ArtPeace and friends' children benefit from proceeds of sculpture sales and donations - without an education all these youngsters would be trapped in a life of mediocrity.

**Unlucky:** Many children unfortunately are not so lucky. Artist Coster on his travels over the festive period, took the above family photo showing a sample of the poorest of the poor unable to attend school as their parents cannot afford

the fees. Tens of thousands of youngsters are in this hopeless situation and face a bleak future.

**Maize update:** Fields whose seed and fertiliser were donated by great supporters Marlow URC show signs of recovery following recent rainfall after a drought. Photo right shows Fortune's wife Norah enjoying a mango whilst weeding. Sights like this make one's heart sing as a good crop can supply a large family with food for much of the year!

**Toller URC, Kettering** – also great friends of ArtPeace, sent a donation raised from various church events.



**Southwark Cathedral shop** has offered two more shelves of selling space making four in total which is tremendous news for the artists as art still plays an important part in their lives.

**CAFOD** London and Harare offices are excelling themselves at keeping ArtPeace sculptures flowing so all things considered 2019 has got off to a promising start!

**Johnston Simpson**