

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

HOW SOME PEOPLE LIVE: All the artists have extended families ranging from 10 to 20 plus souls to support. Mike Masedza, along with his wife Netsai (50), recently visited his mother



in law who was unwell and is a diabetic. She is part of Mike's large extended family who benefit from our support through our donations and sculpture sales. Photo (left), is not a shelter for livestock, but home to this lady! Sadly, many people live in similar poor accommodation. Zimbabwe, once the breadbasket of Africa, had a bright future until the economy collapsed after independence due to the mismanagement and greed of its leaders. Photo right, shows his mother in law



entering her dilapidated home too shy to be photographed with Netsai in the foreground. Mike said: 'Her name is Mary Chaibva (78) who lives alone in this hut in Mudzi District, one of the remotest areas of Zimbabwe, near the Mozambique border. She has a heart condition and suffers



from swollen legs so finds it difficult to walk. She has no borehole water, toilet or electricity. Her 15 year granddaughter, Martha, helps her to cook and fetch water from a shallow well. The scotch cart (left), was her only means of transport to the nearest clinic 15 kms away and it was also used to move her vegetable produce to the local market. Sometimes she would hire it out and earn some money but now it's grounded because her oxen, which used to pull it, died during the drought last year. She uses a neighbour's toilet 200 metres away and needs regular medication. Her hut requires a good roof before the onset of the rainy season. We worry, but she is a very independent

person and it's the only life she has known. She grows her own food but this year was tough due to illness. My wife Netsai is a vegetable vendor and a Sunday school teacher (photo next page) who reads texts from the Bible to her class.

GIFT: I have sent two recent donations to Netsai to buy suitable religious literature (right) to be shared within the class as they have no other material. As it's a long time since St. Andrew's have had a Sunday school although we do have Messy church, I thought it would be nice to 'adopt' this lovely class albeit 7000 miles away! The children were thrilled. African Churches now appear to be shaping Western Christianity. This is the age of reverse mission.





GIANT: Shingi's wife Beauty wanted us to see this giant mustard (Tsunga) leaf from her vegetable garden. Many years ago when visiting the NGO, Silveira House, I was

shown a large herb garden. Each local village had a woman who held a secret herbal remedy passed down the generation for curing one particular ailment. This raised their status in the community, but the Jesuits persuaded these women to share their secrets to benefit everyone.

SNIPPETS: South Africa used to be a safe haven for Zimbabweans trying to improve their lifestyles but no longer. Xenophobic violence by mobs have resulted in voluntarily repatriation by



many Zimbabweans to escape harassment and persecution from protestors. Numerous Zimbabwean families who have lived in SA for many years are being forced to flee, disrupting their children's education. Latest figures show that almost 100000 Zimbabwean nationals have returned from South Africa over the last two months. This movement is not a voluntary homecoming but a desperate flight from a climate of fear,

intimidation and violence now sadly gripping South Africa.

IT'S ONE STEP FORWARD, TWO STEPS BACK for poor Fortune Masiyiwa (right). Some readers may recall his horrific experience from torture by Mugabe's thugs, forcing him into a safe house provided by the Jesuits when I was alerted to his predicament. We improved his situation and he was repatriated with his wife. He has been through so much pain not forgetting his appalling accommodation covered through photos in these articles. He moved away from the area after his shack virtually collapsed and his few possessions were stolen. I thought his luck had changed after we funded his trip to the Mozambique border where he bought some second hand clothes to try and eek a living. We settled him into a better room and life improved. However a week ago I received a scrambled message that the police had confiscated all his stock. I have not heard from him since!



MINI PROJECTS: Mike Masedza's life has greatly improved over the years. He reached a low point and became depressed when he was reduced to living in a squalid room with his family with lines of washing strung overhead. However, Mike was astute enough to invest in a small plot of land courtesy sales from our tremendous exhibitions across the country organised by several United Reformed Churches across the country in 2010. Mike now has his own home painstakingly built brick by brick over 10 years. However, he has no running water and is forced to use his neighbour's well 200 metres away. Mike is a tremendous asset to ArtPeace and deserves our support. The plan is now to raise 4 -500 US\$ to cover the cost of a water survey and digging a well on his own piece of land. This could prove a life changing event for the family.



GODFREY WILLIAM is feeling sore and miserable with the cold winter. He has suffered for many years with eczema over much of his body and buys cream greatly above the normal price from people returning from South Africa. His blurred eyesight worries him so our other objective is to fund an eyesight test for Godfrey and get him new lenses – estimated cost, 250US\$.

FINALLY: Godwin Nasho is a happy man, well pleased with his tremendous harvest this year upon which his large extended family depends. He is one of our best artists whose superb leopards and lions sell quickly. He recently bought chickens with sales money saying: '[Knowledge gained by attending the Foundateions for Farming course has allowed me to start 2 small projects - a poultry venture and a garden. I use the little water I get from a shallow well to water the garden but I need more water so I must deepen the well. My 40 H & N Brown Nick chickens lay eggs which I sell. My goal is to increase the](#)

numbers of layers and increase my egg output. However, the fowl run floor and walls need plastering. so I hope for more sculpture sales.' What an encouraging report to end on!

Johnston Simpson

