

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

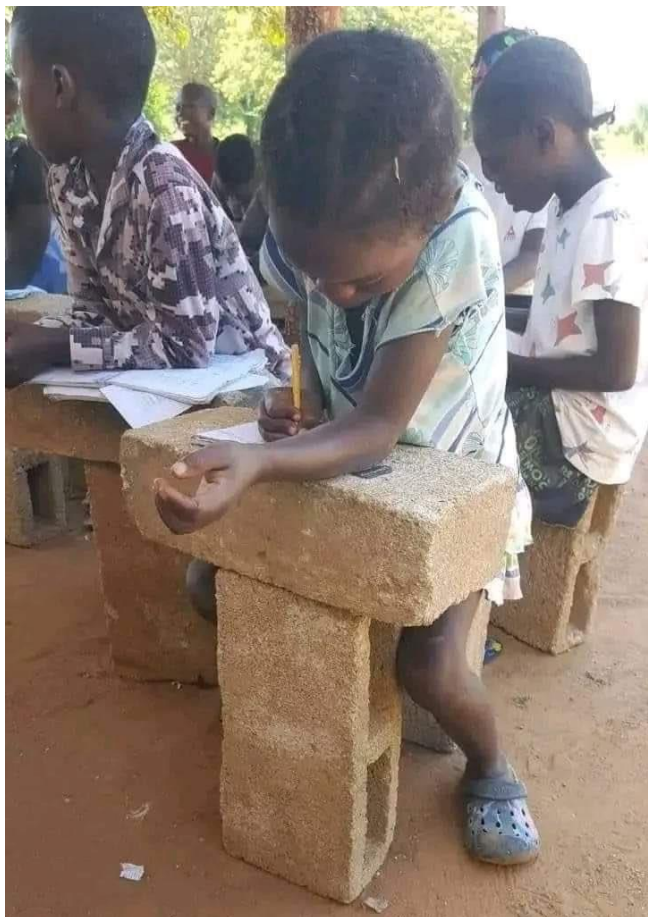
THE GOOD SAMARITANS – ArtPeace frequently send details of people worse off than themselves. Tourists to Zimbabwe, like many other Third World countries I guess, rarely meet these desperately poor people living off the beaten track. Funds permitting, we try to help them and the artists feel good about giving a few dollars to tide them over. **Coster** highlighted the living conditions of his neighbour, 85 year old widowed Gogo (Grandmother) Kanyera who survives through the occasional small donation from her Church. He said: ‘She has a small field which I help her harvest providing maize (below left). She suffers from high blood pressure and a



swollen hip after a recent fall. Last year, I helped to build her little home which does not have a proper toilet, water or electricity. She cooks using scraps of wood and plastic bags as fuel. Emma my wife, helps by fetching water and weeding her field but she needs support to buy medicines’.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL SCULPTURE SALES last month were poor due to inclement weather. However, Kettering URC’s donation plus support from a handful of marvellous friends who regularly donate, has saved the day, ensuring support for AP and others mentioned here.

EDUCATION: Whilst the artists' top priorities are to cover rents and children's school fees, others are not so fortunate. Artist Dickson took this photo of 'a school' 25 kms from Tafara, and said: 'John this is so touching - these are children of resettled people from a former British farm.



There are no roads, no running water, no sewage and no government schools. They have created a school of sorts so at least children may learn to read and write. Their parents are unemployed and have created a cheaper learning strategy. They have no uniforms, no furniture and work in a small space. Equipment is sparse as you can see! They have just returned after heavy rains as their classroom - a shed, has no proper roof or floor. The teacher is a volunteer and teaches a mixed class of grades 1 to 7. After her work at another school she goes to them voluntarily. When absent, brighter students in top grades teach the lower grades so when the teacher comes she will have more time for them'. Many Zimbabwean teachers are on a rolling go-slow as their salaries are pathetic and not enough to even get to work, let alone pay rent, buy food and medicine. And we think our education system is crumbling!



SHINGI

sent this photo (right) of his 18 year old son Emmanuel, fresh from a service at his Church using his father's mobile. He wanted to quote: 'Hear more of the 'The word of God' from

St Andrew's service recorded on WhatsApp'. Many artists' families have become *our* extended family but half have no working mobiles and the remaining old phones bought via eBay auctions have seen

better days. *Once these phones die, all communication will cease!*

A HAPPY ARTIST GODWIN (above) reports: 'Here in Harare, thanks to heavy rains, we expect yet another bumper crop thanks to URC inputs. Sadly there is a drought in rural areas'. Many artists have relations in rural areas so will share their harvest and visit their folks carrying heavy bags of mealie meal by bus. Our support, therefore, reaches many other poor people which is an added bonus. **Johnston Simpson**