

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

THE SAYING 'LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE' rings hollow with Kwekwe artist Herbert

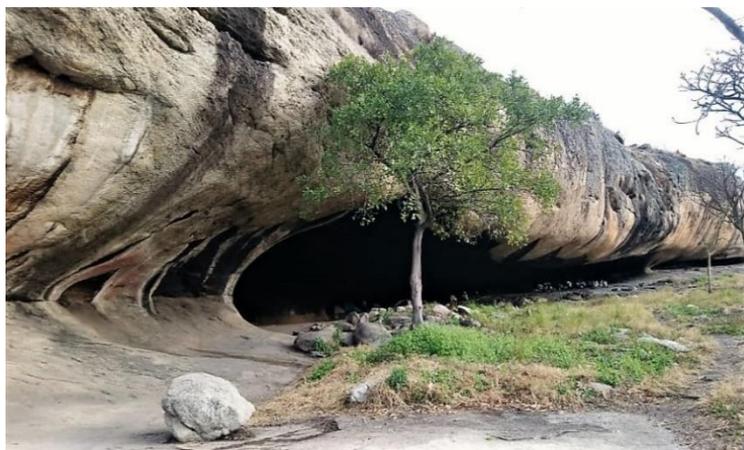


Mhlange. Last year, he was savagely beaten (right), robbed of his mobile and a small sum of money. Last month, he was again attacked (left), this time by two men in their twenties using machetes who robbed him of a few dollars and even the clothes he was wearing – shirt, trousers, and shoes – items they can sell. Although his nasty head wounds are healing, poor Herbert is depressed, and his faith is being sorely tested. He is worried for his family as he could so easily have been killed and all for a few dollars! It shows the depth some people will stoop



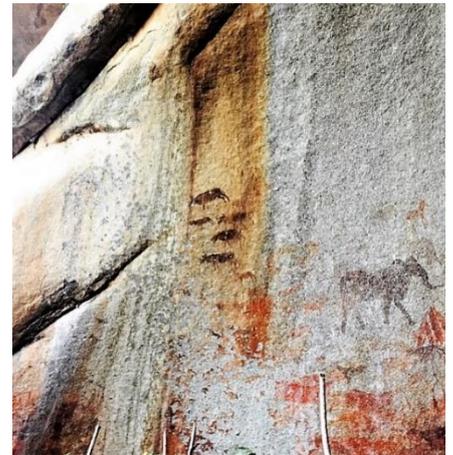
to commit dreadful crimes in these times of desperate hardship for numerous Zimbabweans.

PRAYER MOUNTAIN: On a brighter note, Lovemore James (bottom left) writes: [Morning John, you may find something interesting about my Church journey yesterday to a holy mountain in](#)



[Domboshawa, a place of rocks and caves where we spent all night praying 🙏'.](#)

Note babies on some mothers' backs as they set off on their climb after breakfast. I visited Domboshawa many years ago – the caves were peppered with ancient rock paintings (right) thousands of years old by the San people or Bushmen using dyes from plant roots. I visited a nearby village and shared a lunch of boiled cobs with a family - a memorable occasion.



HOME PROGRESS: Update from Mike: 'Very soon, I will be moving into my new two roomed house. I managed to buy all the materials. I am just waiting for the builder to finish - he has been slow due to other commitments. I will forever remember the wonderful people who kindly donated and have changed my life. I might not know you personally, but the Almighty God does. Thank you very much'. 🙏 Mike Masedza.

SWEETS ANYONE? Peter Kananji (right) who read the lesson at one of our Zoom services is



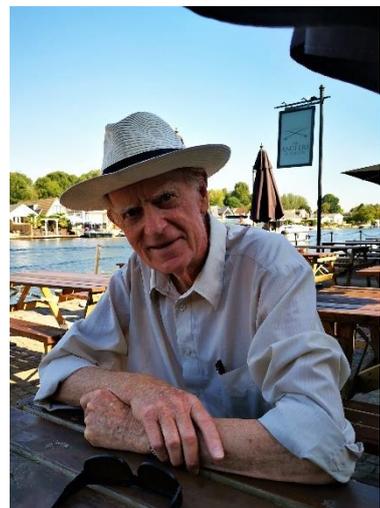
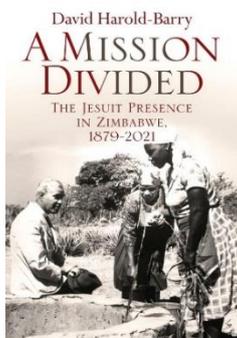
struggling. He said: 'Hi John my friend, I hope all is well with you and Susan. Life in Zimbabwe is becoming even harder as our economy is driving everyone into vending. I'm now helping someone to sell her sweets to get money to cover cost of grinding cobs into meal to feed my family of seven (left). I make 3\$ (£2.50) a day on average, assuming I can outrun the police as they do not like kerbside trading and would fine me – if they caught me! I wish to start my own business rather than work for someone else but have no capital'.



A SPECIAL VISITOR: I recently walked along the Thames towpath with Fr David Harold-Barry SJ, stopping for refreshments at The Anglers'. We had earlier



revisited the large sculpture in the courtyard of the Riverhouse Barn – the result of a competition in 2008 amongst Artpeace denoted by the plaque left. David has addressed our congregation several times over the years in his then capacity as the Director of Silveira House, Chishawasha - a centre for Social



Justice and Development where Artpeace are based. Covid curtailed David's visits, but he finally made it, fresh from his latest book launch in Harare titled 'A Mission Divided' (now available on Amazon). It promises to be a fascinating read. He has spent fifty-five years in Zimbabwe, the first fourteen in Rhodesia is on a whirlwind tour of the UK and Ireland catching up with old friends.

INDISPENSABLE: Travellers, without whose help I could not operate, remain few but we have been very fortunate this month.



Verity, CAFOD's Zimbabwe representative (right) is involved in regular visits to other African countries. She brought over 25kgs Artpeace carvings and is a big support to me in other ways.



Cherish (extreme right), recently noticed the Artpeace display in the Southwark Cathedral Shop and offered to take pieces back later this month. Writer, educator, advocate, teacher of philosophy is only a few of her hats. She supports educational initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa and has promised to contribute an article on her work for our next Newsletter. They are a small sample of the interesting people from all walks of life prepared to go the extra mile for our

Zimbabwean friends making such a difference to their quality of life.

Johnston Simpson