

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

HELLO TORONTO! Earlier this year, Heather Graeme and her husband David (photo with Beryl Brown), visited St Andrew's URC from Canada to visit Rosemary Topping, Heather's sister-in-law. They were married in St Andrew's by the Rev. Bill McCrorie literally the first week he moved down South and before his first official service! Enthused by the ArtPeace display in the Gateway and by the story behind the group, they left with a lovely giraffe and some birds. A flurry of emails later, Heather, as a past President of the Rotary Club of Willowdale, Toronto, asked if I would give a talk on the story based on our ArtPeace involvement via Zoom to her fellow Rotarians. This took place after a few technical hiccups on October 3rd. During the question and answer session, some members expressed an interest in purchasing sculptures but how would we get these over to Toronto? Fortuitously Caroline Gardner and husband Rick are due to visit their family in Toronto in November and kindly agreed to carry a few pieces. ArtPeace were delighted with this development and sent an enthusiastic 'Greetings Toronto' video (left).



Willowdale Rotary Club, was chartered in 1950 and has only 29 members at the moment but punch well above their weight. Heather will raise the subject of the chronic shortage of raw stone at her next board meeting so fingers crossed, there may be a little help forthcoming towards financing an arduous expedition to the mines found at Mashonaland North in Guruve. The majority of Zimbabweans make a living selling goods or vegetables at dusty roadsides, but our friends' main source of income is through our sales. They want to work with a stunning stone called verdite, nicknamed 'Africa's green gold' displaying multiple stunning shades of green, blue and brown.



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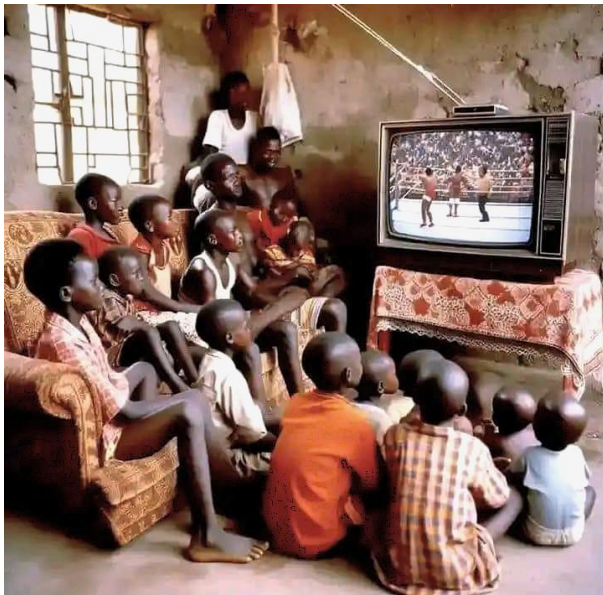
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IMAGINE going to bed with \$100 in your pocket and waking up the following morning to find that it is only worth \$56! This happened on Sept.27th to Zimbabwe's national currency called the ZiG which lost 44% of its value. So overnight, if one did not have any US\$ one could only buy half the food you intended buying, half the medicine or half the rent etc. The country appears to be returning to the nightmares of 2007/2008 and at the hands of the same

ruling party. Civil servants, from teachers, nurses and doctors to police, army and prison workers to engineers and pensioners are the worst hit and reduced to poverty overnight.

SNAPSHOTS FROM ZIMBABWE: Years ago, Lovemore James took this photo of family and



friends watching a programme on his TV. Little has changed said Lovemore. Neighbouring children still flock to watch the same TV. **Right** - Mike Masedza thought to share this photo of a friend's toilet - the mind boggles! The gap between rich and poor in Zimbabwe is staggering and the latest currency crisis



further worsens their situation as food prices and all other commodities continue to escalate.

ZIMBABWEAN ART moves people in various ways. In my case, 'Inner Feelings' (left) by Lloyd



Chikede, 'spoke' to me leading to the ArtPeace project. Liz Grimsey, a big fan of their work, could not resist this eagle on the extreme right, carved by Herbert Mhlange. Liz is a loyal supporter of Crystal Palace FC whose emblem is an



Eagle. A surprising number of St Andrew's ladies are avid Premier league football fans!

CONGRATULATIONS ISABELA who, as a child, was initially looked after by her ailing Gogo (grandmother) who could barely support herself. Lizeni Nasho offered to raise her adding to her



extended family of eleven. Isabela proved to be a bright child but the family could not afford University fees. Step forward Paula who kindly assisted. Little has been heard since of Isabela whose studies were often interrupted not least by Covid. However, I recently received graduation photos taken in October with a heartfelt thank you message to Auntie Paula and for our support in helping the Nasho family in so many ways over the years. Her degree is in International Marketing. A delighted Paula said: *'The little girl I first saw in her new school uniform has grown into a beautiful young lady. I'm very proud of her and, hopefully, she's very proud of herself. Her hard work has paid*



off'. A good education is Zimbabwean parents' No.1 priority for their children for without it, they have little hope of a job. Artist Lizeni, who died last year would have been so proud of Isabela.

Finally, a BIG thank you to those kind people who have donated recently. **Johnston Simpson**

