

**A TOUGH YEAR AHEAD FOR ARTPEACE:** Our artists, their extended families and numerous friends enjoyed a better than usual Christmas thanks to church sales in November plus of course our tremendous Harvest collection. All were delighted and here are sample comments from three impoverished Zimbabweans mentioned in the December newsletter. *1. Joshua Garikayi said the money arrived at a time he fretted how to get some money to buy a covering for the roof of his leaking hut. So he bought a tent to cover the hut and some food & fertilizer. He says the rains are not going to be a problem now. He says thank you very much St Andrews. He says his life is better now and may God bless you all. He is now a changed person and is thinking of visiting his family in Mozambique who fled after thugs forced them off a farm subsequently destroyed.'*



*A smiling Joshua with Christmas supplies, well pleased with his leak proof roof.*



*2. 'Susan was overcome with her money and could not wait to buy her children some clothes. She visited her rural home after a long absence. She said this Christmas was one of the best with her relatives in the rurals – all made possible by the donation. She says thank you St Andrews for making her family's lives & Christmas bearable.'* 3. Photos below: LHS- A happy 89 year old Manuel Pidibasha and granddaughter stocked up with food for Christmas. MIDDLE – Manuel with artist friend Godwin Nasho.

RHS – some of the many footballer orphans waving to St Andrew's after enjoying a great Christmas party again thanks to all your donations! Apologies for the quality of some of these photos. A camera sent to the artists years ago is failing. *Should any reader have no further use for a reasonably modern digital camera simply lying around gathering dust it would be more than welcome, as a photograph is sometimes worth a thousand words.*



**SCULPTURES:** USD1900, proceeds from recent sculpture sales plus some donations got 2011 off to a flyer. However, it's back to reality for the artists. So far, no URC has



offered to run a big sale the like of which we enjoyed last year. It is quite a commitment! Fresh creative ideas are called for in what I suspect may prove one of the group's most challenging years. A few things are in the pipeline. Norman Shouler's daughter Jill has taken some Zim. paintings up to Emmanuel URC, Cambridge where Jan Nicholls has kindly agreed to display same in the church coffee shop. Hazel Bambridge & Janet Thompson, two hard working elders from Toller URC, Kettering paid a visit and returned with over 50 pieces & crafts for a 2 day sale early April.

**IDEA:** I will trial and show some particularly choice pieces for sale through this newsletter. This month's piece (inset) is titled 'My New Dress', 32 cms tall in opalstone priced £65 ono by 25 year old Gift Tembo who has had work exhibited in Germany & Holland. If anyone from St Andrew's is interested please let me know quickly and I will bring it to the next service for inspection but please note these articles are circulated throughout the country so others may also take a liking! I may occasionally feature work by internationally famous artists whose families are well known to our friends enabling these collector's pieces to be purchased at a very reasonable cost ensuring a decent profit.

**BIBLES :** Several artists have requested bibles so in 2 weeks time my good friend Casey



from Anglesey, an incredible character & talented musician will drop off a few of our old Good News bibles at SH on his way to Mutemwa where 40 lepers reside. Casey always treats the lepers to a concert and has a heart of gold. (Photo: Casey with a leprosy patient). Fr David is also keen to have some bibles & recently had a request from a condemned prisoner. Prison conditions in Harare are awful but oddly enough, those with the so called biggest individual space are prisoners on 'death row'. Condemned prisoners stay in their tiny foul space for 23 hours a day. There have been no hangings for 3 years but each door shows the prisoner's name, weight & height, details to be used when the time comes.

**OUTLOOK :** The cooperative sold 300 chickens in the run up to Christmas but are left



with 200 which need feeding. Cheap poultry imports flooding in from South Africa are the culprit so our project is now struggling to show a decent return. The photos on the left show customers surrounded by artists at their market stall. Some artists are thinking of diversifying further by

gathering and smelting scrap metal as there is a shortage of metal in Zim but as usual they lack capital and desperately need cash to pay rents and cover children's education fees. Life is an endless grind. The prospect of an election hangs over them bringing back memories of torture and beatings. Their strong faith plus support from St Andrew's and other URCs/friends is the only light in their lives. One wonders how it will all end.

