

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**CHRISTMAS CHEER:** Our friends were grateful for donations sent in December which enabled them to have a far better Christmas than envisaged. As usual, Christmas gifts to their children consisted of new clothes. **Panashe** sent this photo of his two youngsters, Kupakwashe (meaning God-given) and Ruvarashe (meaning God's flower).



**JANUARY PROVED A HECTIC TIME** for the artists as they rushed around trying to raise cash to cover school fees. Lovemore said: 'It's a stressful time. Some of our children are changing grades so more books are required plus a change of uniforms as some move from Primary to Secondary school'. School fees average around \$40 a month, \$120 a term and they have to buy text and exercise books.

**Mike Masedza** said: 'Yes, this is true. In my son's case he cannot get his 'O' level results because of outstanding school fees'. Panashe, Peter, Godfrey and Shingi's children have similar problems.

**WHILST WE COMPLAIN** of cold gloomy days, the opposite holds true with ArtPeace. January and February are wet months in Zimbabwe but a welcome relief after the long drought. Lovemore James said: 'I am stuck inside my home looking through the window but it's nice to see green maize, pumpkin and beans plants enjoying the rains'. **LEFT: Mike's** maize field at the end of



December and now! He is hopeful of a bumper harvest in April/May. **BELOW:** A delighted **Godwin** is dwarfed by his crop.





**AN UPHILL BATTLE:** Michael Mukolosi (**Muk**) is still struggling from depression after losing



his wife. **Godfrey** is very concerned and said Muk is now suffering from badly swollen legs.

**FAR LEFT:** **Godfrey** wearing spectacles (3 for £3 from Poundland Walton!) with **Muk**. **LEFT:** Muk with his blind mother in pink dress whom he looks after.

**PANASHE** is worried about **Fortune**: 'He is not well, stays alone sleeping often without food. His wooden cabin with no toilet/power is loaned by a friend'. **LEFT:** Fortune wearing a Celtic leather cross I sent and far right - in his home. **CENTRE:** Fortune with Panashe in his vegetable plot.



**CARING:** ArtPeace look after each other but all have problems with no State support. However, their Finance Minister has found millions of dollars to cover more MP's cars/fuel allowances + extra for domestic and foreign allowances and MP's offices. He has now allocated an additional US\$120 million for MP's salaries – such is the level of greed.



**INITIATIVE:** It's not all doom and gloom. **Panashe** said: 'John, look at what I am trying to do, coz to rely on art now is difficult. I am growing indigenous Musasa trees from seed and hope to sell them when they are 6 months old and 20 to 30cms tall at \$1.50 to \$3 per plant. It's a good project and eventually I want to get into Cycads, palm trees, and other trees like Red Flamboyant so good for the environment but hard to find in the neighbourhood unless you buy the pots with larger costly trees. I also want to grow flowers as there are some that you can sell within some weeks rather than wait for 6 months like small trees. I have to look at all sides'. Other artists are striving in other directions which may surprise readers and have used sales money and donations from

earlier years wisely but more on this next article. Onwards and upwards! **Johnston Simpson**