



Commitment  
for Life



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## Illustrations

Page 1: Flag of Zimbabwe – Public Domain

### 1 Here we are

Map – <https://www.distance.to/London/Zimbabwe>

Great Zimbabwe – Kevin Snyman, 2023

Monkey eating fruit – Kevin Snyman, 2023

Corn – Kevin Snyman, 2023

African elephant – EcoView, AdobeStock

Silhouette activity – Lorraine Webb, 2023

### 2 Everyday Life

Harare Skyline, Macvivo 2006 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

Family outside hut – David Brazier, Christian Aid

Vimbai Nyamakambo – Kevin Snyman, 2023

Falcon school – Revd Wilbert Sayimani, 2023

Woman making shoes – David Brazier, Christian Aid

### 3 Celebrating my country

The Great Victoria Falls Thexrd, CC BY-SA 4.0  
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 via Wikimedia Commons, 2022

Mbira – Kevin Snyman, 2023

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Victoria Falls – Klara Bakalarova, AdobeStock

Fruit and veg competition – Kevin Snyman, 2023

Pottery – Kevin Snyman, 2023

### 4 Challenges for children

Toilet block – Kevin Snyman, 2023

Women cooking – David Brazier, Christian Aid, 2023

Cyclone Idai – MODIS image captured by NASA's

Aqua satellite, Public Domain, 14 March 2019

Boy in blue T-s-8 151(it4619-8 151(it4619-8 151Tf 93sa9 378.0

# Welcome





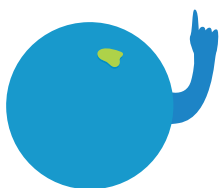
## Bible link Genesis 1:24-25

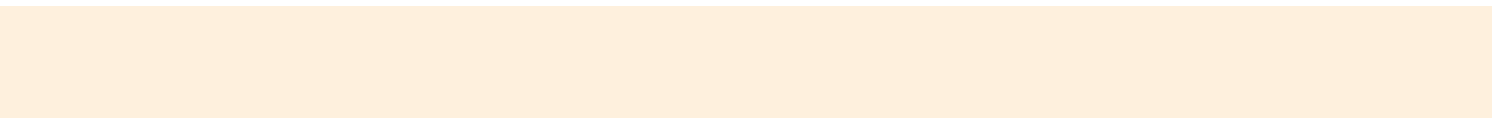
Then God said, "Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals. And let each produce more of its kind." And it happened. So God made the wild animals, the tame animals and all the small crawling animals to produce more of their own kind. God saw that this was good.

- I wonder which of the many animals God placed in Zimbabwe is your favourite
- I wonder why God created such variety and didn't just stop at one or two different creatures
- I wonder what God's hope is for all who live in Zimbabwe and for all who live in the UK

## Prayer

Creator God, thank you for all the variety on earth – different creatures, plants, landscapes,





## Bible Link Matthew 6:25-26

“So, I tell you, don’t worry about the food you need to live. And don’t worry about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more important than food. And the body is more important than clothes. Look at the birds in the air. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns. But your heavenly Father feeds the birds. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds.”

- I wonder what is the most important thing in your life
- I wonder if you think Jesus really meant that you shouldn’t make sure people have enough food or whether he meant something else when he said this

## Prayer

Dear God, help me not to take my shoes for granted. We remember those in countries like Zimbabwe who struggle to earn enough money to buy shoes or school uniform to wear for school. We thank you for Christian Aid partners who are working with communities, teaching women new skills in leatherwork so they can make shoes for their families. Amen.

## Active Prayer

Using a marker and a piece of paper, draw round your foot or shoe and cut it out. Think about what you have in common with children in Zimbabwe and what is different. Choose one thing to ask or thank God for and draw it on your foot shape. Use the footprints to make a path to a cross.

## Game Pada

To play Pada you need one flat stone and ground markings like a hopscotch grid, each box measuring approximately 60cm x 50 cm. Rules are like hopscotch. Players aim to throw the stone into box 1 so that it doesn’t touch the boundary of the box. They then hop into every box except that with the stone in, landing with only one foot in each box and, where two boxes are side by side, landing with one foot in each. When they get to the end, they return in the same fashion, picking up the stone on the way. Then they do the same again, this time throwing the stone into box two. If they fail to get the stone cleanly in the correct box or make a mistake when hopping from box to box or picking the stone up, their turn is over.

## Greta Wonders...

- How does your day differ to that of a child that might attend Falcon Primary School?
- What do you eat for breakfast before going to school? How does this differ from what the children in the Falcon Primary School might eat before they go to school?
- Do you have any chores to do before or after school?

## Activity

Sadza is probably the most widely known food in Zimbabwe. Mix ½ cup maize meal (available fairly cheaply online) with 1 ½ cups room-temperature water to make a paste in the bottom of the saucepan. Bring to the boil then gradually add two cups hot water. Allow to simmer for several minutes then add another ½ cup maize meal, stirring constantly for about five minutes. Leave cooking for 15 more minutes with the saucepan lid on, then uncover and stir again for two minutes. Make sure it doesn’t go lumpy! Form into balls and eat with your fingers with chicken or some other accompaniment.

## Action Point

Children in some parts of Zimbabwe do not have access to social media, computer games, television, or smart phones etc. Why not put your phones, laptops, and computer games away for a weekend and, if you can, go outside and play with your friends games such as chase, hide and seek, football or hop scotch. Or read a book or play board games or do some craft activities. Alternatively you could always do some extra chores for your family around the home. Afterwards reflect how it felt not to use your devices for a whole weekend. Do you have old reusable shoes or outgrown items of school uniform that could be given to someone who is struggling financially to buy new shoes/uniform for school?

**Zimbabwe's famous waterfall** Mosi-oa-Tunya (meaning "the smoke that thunders") is the original name of Victoria Falls on the Zambezi river. It's one of the biggest in the world – over 1,700m wide, with a drop of over 98m. The mist that rises from it creates a permanent rainbow! It is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. David Livingstone was one of the first European people to see it in the mid-nineteenth century and he named it after Queen Victoria, but of course it was there long before Livingstone saw it.

**Great Zimbabwe** The ancient city of Great Zimbabwe is a national monument. It was once the capital city of the kingdom of Zimbabwe from the 11th to the 15th century and was one of the largest cities in the world during that time, being home to as many as 18,000 people. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Community** Zimbabwean people have a sense of community and tend to put their group or family's







## Bible Link Joshua 1:9

“Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So, don’t be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.”

- I wonder if there’s been a time when God has helped you to be strong and brave
- I wonder where God is at work in Zimbabwe

## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the beauty of your creation that surrounds us. Help us to take nothing for granted and to respect our homes, our food and access to clean water. We pray for people in Zimbabwe being greatly affected by changing weather patterns like cyclones, droughts or floods which cause destruction of crops, homes and livelihoods. Help them to be strong and brave as they work with organisations that can help them make a difference. Amen.

**Active Prayer** You will need a plant and wooden lolly sticks

A plant that produces food needs to get the right amount of water. Too much and it can drown or too little and it can dry out. Variations in rainfall around the world, caused by climate change,

Jesus said, "I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you." (John 13:34) The United Reformed Church's Commitment for Life programme works with Christian Aid to put God's love into action around the world, including in Zimbabwe. Christian Aid then partners with organisations in Zimbabwe that support and enable the people there to make changes that will help them. BRACT is one of those organisations.

BRACT helps people become more resilient so that they are affected less by the harsh climate and unpredictable extreme weather.

By telling people about the different crops they can grow and livestock they can keep, and by giving them what they need to get started, BRACT helps them ensure they have enough and healthier food to eat, and extra to share and to sell for extra income. Farmer Gilbert Batau, for example, was introduced to the idea of raising goats and chickens. Gilbert says, "Each time I got male kids, I would pass on one of them to another farmer in the next village. In that way we are realising great success with the goat improvement programme."

BRACT also provides training to help young people learn a trade that isn't reliant on the weather, such as confectionery/bakery; bricklaying; carpentry; dressmaking; food processing (and peanut butter making); motor mechanics and welding. And this isn't just for men. They help women have the confidence to take up work that was once thought to be just for men. Jerina Nyamukondiwa has become a welder through one of their projects and she says, "Do not be intimidated by being told that this and this job cannot be done by women. There is no work that cannot be done by women because (they say) it is hard."

The support that BRACT gives to individuals helps them change their own lives and they then pass what they have learned on to others in the community. BRACT sets up community gardens and water pumps that everyone can use.

Falcon Junior School in Harare is supported by Commitment for Life who helped provide a hot water system, which means the children can wash their hands. The school was founded in 2009 for the children of the poorest of families in the region.

Tererai Trent was born into a cattle-herding family in Zimbabwe and dreamed of getting an education like her brother but, like many girls in Zimbabwe, she was msr br(r(r(r(r(8)21 oi hCT an)11 (ds. Thpus.ardea:many gir 4:many gc)JJ O Te h)11imb

## Bible Link James 1:22

Do what God's teaching says; do not just listen and do nothing. When you only sit and listen, you are fooling yourselves.

- I wonder what God wants us to do to be good friends to the people of Zimbabwe
- I wonder what you have learned from Go with Greta about Zimbabwe and about God

## Prayer

Loving God, you created your wonderful world to live in harmony and care for each other. We are sorry for the times when we take things for granted. Help us to listen to your teaching, to learn about your world and to play our part in sharing your love. Amen.

## Active Prayer

Some children in Falcon School walk as much as five kilometres each way to go to school, and have chores to do before and after school too. Go on a prayer walk in your local area (it doesn't have to be 5km!). As you walk, thank God for the things you see that you are grateful for and say sorry for the signs of pollution or littering. Whenever you see children, ask God to bless the children of Zimbabwe and those who work to help them with the challenges they face.

## Game Tsoro Yematatu

You need three counters each. On a triangle shape with seven points marked on, like in the picture, take it in turns to place your counter in an empty spot, trying to get three in a row like in noughts and crosses. Once all the pieces are placed, you take it in turns to move one of your counters to an empty adjacent spot. You can jump over an opponent's counter (without taking it) but only in a straight line, you can't go round a corner. The winner is the person who gets three in a row first.

## Greta Wonders...

- What are your hopes and dreams for the future? Do you think they are the same as those of children in Zimbabwe or different?
- What do you think the word 'Ubuntu' means for you?
- Why might women and girls in Zimbabwe need support to go to school or to get good jobs?

## Activity

### Banana Fatcooks

Mix 125g flour, 2 tbsp sugar, 2 tsp baking powder and 1 tsp cinnamon in a bowl. Mash 2 overripe bananas and beat 2 eggs then add these to the dry ingredients and mix until they are combined but without overmixing. Heat cooking oil in a saucepan to 180°C (an adult may have to do this part of the activity) then

Also from the United Reformed Church's Commitment for Life and Children's and Youth Work partnership, resources on Nicaragua and on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Visit the website [www.bit.ly/Greta\\_Connect\\_Resource](http://www.bit.ly/Greta_Connect_Resource) or contact [suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk](mailto:suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk) or [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) for your copy.

Has your church considered becoming a Commitment for Life church, supporting one of the three regions? Find out more on their webpage: [www.bit.ly/C4L\\_URC](http://www.bit.ly/C4L_URC). And why not order a frisbee!

November 2024 watch out for  
Greta, Greta #C4L 2024

URC Children and URC Youth provide resources covering the 0-25 age range, including holiday club materials, themed resource books, intergenerational resources for Advent and much much more.

Our Faith Adventures range provides material for families, children's groups and youth groups across the 0-14 age range. Contact: 01078 3149389 115.5032 Tm