

Session 5

Love is... love in action



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 married young and had three children by the time she was eighteen. She taught herself to read and write and dreamed of going to America. She wrote her dreams down on paper, put them in a tin and buried it. She was determined to get an education overseas and then use what she learned to help people in her own country. She now works with charitable organisations to fund schools and to promote education for all children, regardless of gender and wealth. She speaks out about injustice. She has written books, including books for children. Listen to her own true story, *The Girl who Buried her Dreams in a Can* <https://youtu.be/3GDByOOju1w>. She also wrote *Zandi finds Ubuntu* https://youtu.be/v_R8n7KJa10. Ubuntu is an idea that is known across the countries of southern Africa, including Zimbabwe, and means many different things, but it is basically about togetherness and how each has an impact on the lives of others.



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

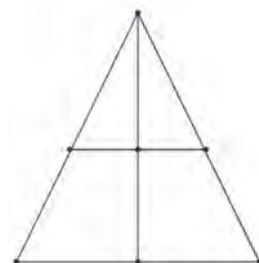
Loving God, you created your wonderful world to live in harmony and care for each other. We are sorry for the times when we take things for granted. Help us to listen to your teaching, to learn about your world and to play our part in sharing your love. Amen.

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 on 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 spoon the banana mixture into the oil and cook for about 2 minutes on each side. Drain on a paper towel before serving warm.

Create a dream-holder

Use a clean, empty tin can with the lid safely removed, making sure you leave no sharp edges. Use acrylic paints to decorate it with a Zimbabwean pattern. Write your dreams on a piece of paper and put it in, then stretch a piece of balloon over the top and fasten with an elastic band.

Action Point

A lot of the challenges for families in Zimbabwe come from climate change. We in the UK contribute to climate change when we drive petrol and diesel engines, use non-renewable energy, and cut down trees. Try to remember to turn off electrical appliances (including light bulbs!) when not using them, to walk or cycle or use public transport instead of going by car, and to care for the environment.

Watch

<https://youtu.be/KZcGMRemqrY>

Tida, Tipa ne shamwari is a classic rhyme that talks about little hands doing good so as to please God.

