

Moving STORIES

Commitment
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Committed to supporting our global partners **ZIMBABWE**

Christmas as Resistance

Luke 1:46-55, 2:10-12

Julie Sim from the Council for World Mission reminds us that Mary's Prayer is a revolutionary song – not just a spiritual hymn but a social and political revolution in rousing verse. 'It is,' she asserts, 'a declaration of liberation and emancipation, a construction of a new social order for all people to live with hope.'

'The language of the angel is political: this child is the anti-Caesar; this babe will radically oppose the designs of Empire. In this anti-empire reading of the story, we see how 'the family' experiences the political, social, and spiritual consequences of choosing to resist rather than succumb to empire.

'Empires tend to follow one another through history. They all manifest themselves in domination, arrogance, self-congratulation, and wealth distribution to the top. If there are differences currently from previous times, it is only that today empires are way more efficient in the devastation of cultures, species, and the planet itself in pursuit of profit.

'This New Year, may we develop a renewed discernment of the subversiveness of Christmas. May we pledge allegiance not to the lure of power, violence, and economic exploitation, but to the Jesus of life-flourishing communities.'

Prayer

O God, we come to you this Christmas with grateful hearts. We praise you for the gift of Jesus. We are deeply thankful that Jesus changes our stories of hardship into testimonies of hope. We rejoice in all the great things you have done. Guide us, O God, so we can bear witness to your love, grace, and justice. Amen.



The Manyenga dam, in Mutoko District. Part of the BRAC programme, which is helping communities adapt to climate and socio-economic shocks in Zimbabwe. Photo: Christian Aid

BRAC in Zimbabwe

Christian Aid has had a long and fruitful presence in Zimbabwe, in affiliation with various partners who deliver transformative programmes on the ground.

One such programme is BRAC. This initiative over five years has formed part of the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZBRF). It was developed with the aim of helping communities prepare and adapt to a changing climate and economic shocks and stand up for the rights of ordinary people.

The programme's full title is: Building Resilience through improving the Absorptive and Adaptive Capacity for Transformation (BRAC) of at-risk communities in the Mutoko and Mudzi districts of Zimbabwe.

Through BRAC, Commitment for Life supports vulnerable households that are affected by recurring shocks, mostly related to climate change. BRAC has enabled us to build partnership in Zimbabwe, and we are grateful to those who administer the work on the ground.

As we begin the new year, Commitment for Life wants to thank each of you for the precious gift of your support. This enables us to deliver support programmes like BRAC that make an enormous difference in the lives of the people of Zimbabwe.