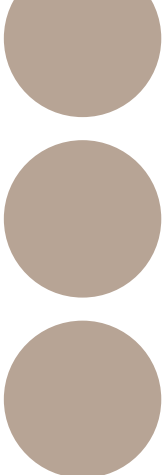




WOMEN WILL RENEW

Film discussion guide

mcc.org/women-renew-film



This film takes us to Mwenezi District, Zimbabwe, where two community leaders with MCC partner Score Against Poverty (SCORE) are working to address problems that involve both climate change and gender inequity. As you learn more about Tariro Cynthia Mutsindikwa, an engineer, and Caroline Pugeni, a project manager, we invite you to ponder what their example—and the examples of other women shown in the film—can mean to us in our own lives.








As you glimpse the lives of women through MCC's work in Mwenezi District, Zimbabwe:

- What person, story or image in the film resonated the most with you? Why?
- What aspects of the women's lives and stories feel familiar to you from your own life?
- What surprised you in what you saw or heard?
- What else do you notice about life for women in Mwenezi District, Zimbabwe?





Women in Zimbabwe are deeply affected by climate change but have little power in their culture to address it. Cynthia, an engineer, and Caroline, a project coordinator, are working together to empower women with clean energy equipment and knowledge.

- What clean energy technologies did you notice highlighted in the film that also are improving women's lives?
(solar panels, fuel-efficient stoves and biodigesters)
- What moved you the most about how these technologies are helping women?
- In the film, Caroline talks about changing weather patterns and how rains are no longer reliable. When harvests fail, what options may families have?
(Often men are forced to migrate for work, leaving wives at home with few resources to ensure that the household is running and that children have enough to eat.)





As we see women in rural Zimbabwe using technologies like fuel-efficient stoves, they are reducing their own emissions, which leads us to wonder:

- How do emissions in Zimbabwe compare to emissions from a country like the U.S.? Does anyone know?

(According to data from the World Bank, in 2019, emissions in Zimbabwe were 0.8 tons per person, compared to 14.7 tons person in the U.S.)

- What clean energy technologies, or other efforts, do you see in your community that are working to reduce emissions or otherwise combat climate change? Are there efforts you've taken part in, or changes you've committed to make in your life?





Working at a problem as complicated as global climate change is daunting. But we invite you to bring a fresh eye to the following questions and see what thoughts they spark for you.

- Look inside. Cynthia talks about her deeply rooted desire to solve things even as a child, and how that led her to her work as an engineer today. What moves your heart the most when you think about addressing climate change or caring for the world that God created?
- Can you name a few of the different levels where each of us can work to respond to climate change?

(This could include making changes in our own individual lives; contacting policymakers; promoting education or action about climate change in our churches or schools.)
- What level or aspect of work are you most drawn to? Which is the most daunting?
- Would you be willing in the next three months to commit to one small action in a category that you're drawn to, and to an action in a category that feels daunting?





And we have one final challenge we'd like you to consider: What's your tree?

In reflecting on visits and interviews that led to the film, a writer for MCC, Linda Espenshade, noticed that nearly every family she met talked about planting a tree, often one. They were all determined to do something, even if the action was small, to help the earth around them.

So, she asked herself: If families in Zimbabwe, struggling to grow crops in dry land, can find the energy to plant and care for a tree, what can I do? She decided the “tree” she would plant would be a decision—the next vehicle she purchases will be electric. And she came back to the U.S. ready to pass that question on to each of us.

- What could be your “tree”—what is an action could you take, or a commitment that you could make, in solidarity with these women and their families in Zimbabwe?





Want to learn more about this MCC-supported work to provide clean energy and empower women in Zimbabwe?

Read more about how this project is transforming women's lives: "[The powerful change that technology can bring.](#)"

See a first person account from an interview with [Caroline Pugeni.](#)

Read the article "[What good does it do to plant one tree?](#)" and join MCC's Linda Espenshade in reflecting on what it can mean to see people working for clean energy even as their own lives are affected by climate change.

Explore the article "[From cow manure to quilts](#)" to see an additional way that biodigesters can provide new opportunities.

Go to mcc.org/women-renew-film to find links to these articles, and a recording of the April 20 online film premiere, which includes a question and answer session with Caroline Pugeni and Tariro Cynthia Mutsindikwa, along with filmmaker Christy Kauffman.





Inspired by seeing these women work for clean energy in the midst of their struggles with climate change?

Go to ClimateActionForPeace.com to learn more about how climate change is affecting people and to see how you can act for climate solutions that help build a more peaceful future and a healthier planet for all.

