Up to 1965, Zimbabwe, then Rhodesia, was a British colony. The white settlers practised a policy of racism against the majority black population; along the same lines as the apartheid policy of South Africa. In November, 1965 the white minority unilaterally declared independence of Rhodesia from Britain.

The African nationalists parties were banned and much of the leadership imprisoned. In 1966 they began armed resistance against the minority white regime which escalated into guerilla warfare in 1972.

With a rapidly deteriorating internal situation and with increased international pressure the whites agreed to free and fair elections, at the Lancaster House Conference, Britain.

In 1980 a black majority government came to power with Mr. Robert Mugabe as Prime Minister.

At the Lancaster House Conference the blacks were forced to agree to compensate whites for land which the new government would need to resettle one million refugees who had fled during the war. (In 1976 every white had access, on average, to one hundred times as much land as every black).

Resettlement has become a major problem due to insufficient funds to buy land from the whites.

South Africa plays a vital role in its ability to block the economic reconstruction of Zimbabwe, for it is heavily dependent on South Africa for vital imports and exports. For example, a year after Zimbabwe's independence, South Africa stopped the preferential trade agreement which they had with the then Rhodesia.

The Church, like the rest of Rhodesia, was deeply affected during the war. Both ordinary and full-time church members suffered with the people.

Today Zimbabwe is attempting not only to rid itself of the social legacies of colonialism and the laws which enforced racism and discrimination, but also attitudes that reinforce them.
Since there probably will not be time to cover all the questions, it is suggested that the discussion leader pick key questions for use when showing the film. The other questions can be used for further analysis of developments in Zimbabwe.

*Before the film is shown,* use the first questions to raise awareness and interest. (Read or discuss the material on page one.)

1. What scenes would you expect to see in New Zimbabwe?
   - How would people dress?
   - What kind of housing would you expect?
   - What other general impressions of a nation in south, central Africa do you have?

2. What feelings do you have about Africa after seeing this film? Why?

3. What scene in the movie greatly impressed you? Which one surprised you? (Compare responses to question 1.)

4. What aspects of African culture are reflected in the movie?

5. What problems facing the new nation, Zimbabwe, are mentioned in the film? (Possible answers: regional differences, brain drain, emigration of whites, reconciliation, difficulty of blacks and whites working together, modernization.)
6. How are these problems similar or dissimilar to the ones faced by early Americans and American Indians after the Revolutionary War with Britain?

7. After the war for independence, the voters of Zimbabwe chose a government of socialism under Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. Pope John Paul said to the Bishops of Zimbabwe in June 1982: “Be ready to accept all that is compatible with the Gospel . . .” How do you think this applies to the socialist government Zimbabwe has established? (Consider factors such as distribution of wealth, social services, education, health care, participation of people in the political process, access to leadership by all, promotion of social institutions which reflect African values.)

8. The front line nations of Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, and Angola were united behind Zimbabwe’s struggle for black majority rule. In what way does the success or failure of Zimbabwe affect the apartheid policies of the government of South Africa?

9. Most of Zimbabwe’s foreign trade is with or through South Africa. How can South Africa use this dependency to its own advantage?

10. In the film Sister Gertrude Matsika says, “Your countries are well-developed—perhaps you face more problems than we, by way of the human heart.” What did she mean?

11. What is the attitude now of black Zimbabweans toward racist groups under which they suffered discrimination and destitution before independence?

12. Before independence, whites lived a life of great comfort at the expense of black Zimbabweans. After independence it was estimated that whites began to leave Zimbabwe at a rate of 2000 a month. If you were a white who chose to stay in Zimbabwe, what adjustments would you personally have to make? What would you lose? What would you gain?
13. As the war continued between black and white before independence, the Catholic Church began siding more and more with black and poor Zimbabweans. How did the film present the Church's response to the needs of the poor in New Zimbabwe?

14. What further questions would you like to ask the key persons seen in the film?
- Mr. Eddie Cross and members of his family
- Sister Gertrude Matsika
- Prime Minister Robert Mugabe
- President Canaan Banana (also a Methodist minister)
- Sister Janice McLoughlin
- Catechist Mutembanesango

How would you get more information about people in Zimbabwe?

15. Questions about the country itself:
Where is Zimbabwe?
How big is the country? How many People? Whites? Blacks?
What is happening in Zimbabwe right now?

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