

SOUTHERN AFRICA GLIMPSES FROM ZIMBABWE

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- Speaker** (Kerstin Jackson): Oliver Mtukudzi tells all Zimbabweans to be proud of themselves and their culture – for their own benefit and for future generations. ‘For how long shall we be running away from our shadows?’ he sings.
- Joymore is an archeologist working at Great Zimbabwe, the famous ruins from which the country takes its name. The word means ‘a house of stone’.
- Joymore:** Probably this is the only site in the world that gives its’ name to a country.
- Speaker:** How important is this place to you?
- Joymore:** Personally, I think it is very important. As a Zimbabwean it gives me pride. It gives me this opportunity to identify myself with whom I really am. Because it has a lot of history of religion, a lot of history of how the people lived then, a lot of history of the social way of life of the people and so it is really – it is quite important in that it helps me to identify myself.
- Speaker:** Joymore takes me around the ruins while we are walking up the hill to the top of the so-called Acropolis, where the ruler lived. She tells me about the importance of this vast State. It had its capital here between 1250 and 1450 A.D. It was a very successful, well-organised state, with trade links both within Africa and as far away as Persia, India and China. The ruler here was powerful and wealthy. His wealth was measured by the size of his cattle herds. At its peak, there could have been as many as 18,000 people living at Great Zimbabwe. Today, many tourists come to admire the walls and the impressive stone work.
- Speaker:** Now we’re walking up to the top of the hill. And it’s very high up. How many tourists come here every year?
- Joymore:** At an average we’re looking at 200,000 tourists per year.
- Speaker:** We have some coming here. Can we stop and talk to them? Hello.
- Tourist:** How are you?
- Speaker:** I’m fine. How are you?
- Tourist:** Have seen some of the walls?
- Tourist:** Yes. I’ve seen them. I’ve seen them.
- Speaker:** And what do you think about them?
- Tourist:** I have seen good and attractive walls. I don’t know how they built them and where they found those beautiful stones.
- Speaker:** Have you been here before?

Tourist: No. This is my first time.

Speaker: OK, thank you.

Joymore: This is the eastern enclosure. And this is where most of the Zimbabwean birds were recovered from. And do you see these platforms – one, two, three, four, going up – this is where about six of these marble birds were recovered.

Speaker: Tell me about these Zimbabwean birds.

Joymore: The Zimbabwean birds – Ahh, they are soapstone carved birds. They are in green soapstone. They could have been used as part of the religion. Where they were used as religious icons, they were used as communicators of messages from men to God, you see. So in this particular case the Zimbabwean birds were actually very important. It has been used as a symbol for the nation since time in memorial – that is since independence. And it appears on all our coin money. So, it is actually important and it is a symbol of the nation indeed.

Ntlantla: This being the kitchen. As you can see it's not looking terribly clean today.

Speaker: Is this where you are cooking.

Ntlantla: Yes, I could say that.

Speaker: It's not your mother's domain completely then?

Ntlantla: Not really. She delegates it to the rest of us. It's strange because in most houses they expect girls to cook. But in this house it's the boy's domain, I could say.

Speaker: Because you don't have a maid that looks after you.

Tamsanga: No.

Ntlantla: No, we don't. We used to but my mother saw no need since she has got all of us.

Speaker: A sensible mother. Ntlantla and Tamsanga, seventeen years old and twins, are showing me around their big house where they live with all their brothers and their parents. The house is in the centre of Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe. This family belongs to a church where they spend a lot of their time.

Ntlantla: Our lives almost revolve around church. Most of our friends that I know now at church. And most of the people I know come from church. Thursday night we have band practice. I play the drums and Quanele, he plays the keyboard. Musa, well he just sings and plays around with the tambourine and things like that. And basically just practice and then Fridays we have youth meetings and it's a lot of fun, believe me. It's quite something else.

And Saturday we have choir practice. For, like we'll be practicing for what we'll be singing on Sundays. And Sundays we have church service. But before that we have Sunday school and normally it starts about ten. We have Sunday school, and most people when they hear Sunday school they think, ahh it's for little kids and it's childish stuff but it's not. It's actually quite different really. You learn quite a lot about life and how to involve

God in your life and things like that. In our stage in life you really need a lot of guidance.

I mean, I'm just a teenager myself. And you know and basically I see what other people see. And just because I go to church, it doesn't mean that I'm just like, you know, narrow-minded – one tracked, you know. I think this way. I am very open.

Speaker: Zimbabwe gained independence from Britain twenty years ago. It was the culmination of years of struggle for freedom in which Robert Mugabe ultimately played a key role. At independence, there were about 250,000 whites living in Zimbabwe. Today that figure has fallen to about 40,000. The father of the twins was involved in the Freedom War. I ask the twins if black and white is an issue today? Ntlantla doesn't think so, he's got some white friends, but Tamsanga does not agree.

Speaker: What would your parents do if you came home with a white girlfriend?

Tamsanga: OH, oh, oh. I think my parents would... I don't think I want to know what to do.

Speaker: Lovely girl.

Ntlantla: It doesn't matter how lovely she is. If you don't marry her, they are fine with it. My parents? Well, I don't know. I think it's my Dad mainly. He just doesn't ...

Speaker: It doesn't apply to ... You can't even think of ...

Ntlantla: I can't even think of her. But not to say that ... In fact if it meant me going against my parents, which is something is something I really don't want to do. It depends. If say, I wanted to marry the person or ... It's my decision. It's the person I want to be with regardless of race, colour, whatever. It's my choice.

Speaker: It might take some time.

Ntlantla: It might take some time. They'll have to adjust to it. Yes, they will.

Speaker: Today Zimbabwe faces new problems – collapsed economy, corruption, and the struggle for democracy is causing a lot of unrest. And with the occupation of commercial farms owned by whites, property has been destroyed and people killed. Like all other Southern African countries – Zimbabwe also suffers from the fearsome plague of AIDS.

Speaker: 'We mourn quietly' sings Oliver Mtukudzi, 'who will feed who since the breadwinners are all dying?'

Speaker: In the centre of Bulawayo they roam the streets to look for something to steal. Something to do that could generate some money. They are hungry and dirty. They are street children and their numbers are increasing. Jabulane was picked up in the streets by a social worker some years ago and he was taken to 'The Shelter of Home' – a home and training centre for such children.

Jabulane: My mother and my father were involved in the car accident when I was ten years. And then they took me to my grandmother and then my

grandmother took me to this home. Then after some time I went to live in the streets and I started living with other children.

Speaker: When you were living in the streets, what did you do to survive?

Jabulane: We picked some money from the people who were passing by and we looked after their cars and they give us some money to buy food.

Speaker: Did you do some stealing as well?

Jabulane: Yes.

Speaker: What sort of things did you steal when you were out there?

Jabulane: We snatched their cell phones to go and sell them at the market to give us some money.

Speaker: And how much money could you get for a cell phone?

Jabulane: A hundred dollars. It was a lot of money because we bought glue and bread.

Speaker: And what did you use the glue for?

Jabulane: We used it to sniff so that you can forget about the past.

Speaker: In the reception of the National Gallery in Bulawayo, I meet Georgia. She's one of the lucky ones who's got a job for the summer vacations. Georgia is a white seventeen-year-old girl who has got plans for the future. She wants to travel.

Georgia: My parents were not born here. They were born overseas. My Dad is from Spain. So it is important for me to visit those places to see where my parents grew up, discover a bit about my heritage and to just to meet new people. I was born here. I haven't lived anywhere else.

Speaker: How is it to live in a country when the whites are in minority?

Georgia: Well, it can be frustrating at times when people consider that all white people here are racists. But you just have to learn to work together with Black people – Black people, coloured people, Indian people. It's a multi-cultural society. I mean it's a beautiful country in terms of the scenery and, you know, wildlife. It's very beautiful but it's hard for young people to grow up here because we feel like we've lost touch, and we want to reach out and get involved with other people. That's why I want to travel.

Speaker: 'Time is running out. Time is against us. Let us unite and do away with hatred and jealousy.' Listen to Oliver Mtukudzi singing.

Glimpses from Zimbabwe

Words to help you understand the programme

for one's own benefit	för ens egen skull
(archaeological) site	(arkeologisk utgrävnings-) plats
ruler	härskare
vast	vidsträckt, väldig
trade links	handelsförbindelser
cattle herd	boskapshjord
at its peak	här: under dess glansdagar
enclosure	inhägnat område
soapstone	täljsten
icon	ikon, religiös bild
chevron pattern	V-mönster
independencesjälständighet	
guidande	vägledning
narrow-minded	trångsynt
issue	problem
unrest	oro, jäsning
commercial farm	(storskaligt) industrijordbruk
fearsome	förskräcklig
mourn	sörja
bread-winner	familjeförsörjare
roam	ströva omkring
nick	knycka, sno
snatch	rycka till sig, stjäla
cell phone	mobilttelefon
glue	lim
heritage	arv
scenery	[vacker] natur; landskap

Glimpses from Zimbabwe

Questions about the programme

Great Zimbabwe

1. What does “Great Zimbabwe” mean?
2. Approximately when was Great Zimbabwe the capital of a vast state?
3. How far away did its trade links go?
4. What is Great Zimbabwe now?
5. What do you know about the “Zimbabwean birds”?

Zimbabwe to-day

1. When did Zimbabwe gain its independence?
2. Mention some of the problems the country is facing to-day.
3. What do you know about Robert Mugabe?

Jabulane and Georgia

1. Jabulane used to live on the streets. What do you know about his life as a street child?
Why did he buy glue?
2. Georgia is a white seventeen-year-old girl. What plans has she got for the future?
3. What does she say about living in a country where the whites are in a minority?