

OCTOBER 2018



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



Our 1st years completed their 3 month Foundation Course at the beginning of October and we enjoyed celebrating their success with them. We combined the event with a Parents' Day and it was great to have many parents with us, seeing what the apprentices have been achieving over the past three months and taking the opportunity to find out more about life at Ebenezer.



During our break between lessons in October, our apprentices benefited from some excellent workshops, covering topics such as Worship and Team Building (pictured left). We hope to hold more workshop weeks in the months to come, as a way to expand our apprentices' learning and to bring input from outside of Ebenezer on a range of subjects relating to both discipleship and practical learning.



October has been a challenging month for the whole of Zimbabwe with fuel shortages across the country. We are thankful that we were able to keep everything going at Ebenezer with some juggling acts and lots of prayer!



Another highlight in October was the opportunity for Ebenezer staff and apprentices to participate in MegaVision, a conference bringing together churches from across Zimbabwe. The 3-day event at Shalom Campsite included excellent teaching from international speakers, some engaging practical seminars and plenty of fun and games!

CROPPING

41 hectares currently under irrigation:



1 hectare of tomato and 2 hectares of butternut were planted in October. This is half our scheduled amount due to seeds and seedlings not being ready.

5 hectares of green maize were planted in October.

Our seemingly never-ending crop of seed maize was finally harvested and bagged in October! These bags of seed should be collected in November.

During October our first honey was produced from our Ebenezer hives! We were able to do a practical demonstration on opening a hive with local out-grower farmers from the community.



LIVESTOCK



October has been a rollercoaster ride of a month for our Broiler team. Following Ebenezer's most successful batch of birds at the end of September, 13792 birds were received at the beginning of October. The birds have shown a steady growth with a good FCR of 1.6. However the challenge of October's notorious heatwaves led to the loss of 824 birds in one 24 hour period! The ten apprentices in the Broiler team continue to soldier on and are determined to see this loss as learning experience!



Layer Coach, Mncedisi, has been working with the Broiler team to improve bio security around the Broiler houses and has also been encouraging the apprentices in their work ethic.



There have been 11 apprentices working in the Dairy this month and they were happy that 4 new calves were born in October, 2 males and 2 females.

Average milk production was down in October with a total of 16,339 litres which is an average of 12.7 litres per cow per day. This reduction in production is partly due to a shortage of silage, however in general the cows are in good condition.



Improvements have been underway this month in the layer houses, especially in terms of temperature control - water tanks have been covered with thatching grass to keep the water cool and shade cloth has been put up to protect the birds from the Summer heat.

There was a drop in our layers' lay-rate due to a lack of calcium in their feed, but the lay-rate has since improved and 421,150 eggs produced in October.