

JULY 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



July is always a big month at Ebenezer as we welcome our new apprentices and start our Ebenezer year. On 8th July 67 new arrivals started our Foundation Course and were welcomed by 49 second years embarking on our Advanced Course. The new year has begun with a lot of enthusiasm and it has been fun to see our first years settle into life, work and lessons at Ebenezer!

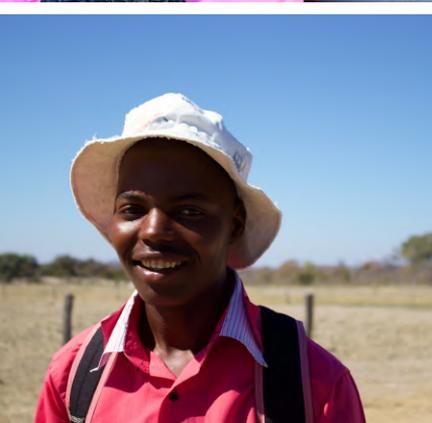


During our Orientation week we were blessed to have 18 young people from Bulawayo join us as part of a discipleship course they are doing associated with the Base Church. They brought a lot of enthusiasm and fun as well as providing some good teaching on Identity in Christ with our second years.



We have kicked off our new year of Family Nights with Youth Alpha. It's good to start the year exploring questions such as "Who is Jesus?" and to see our apprentices deepen their understanding.

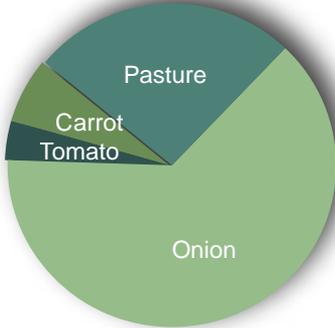
Zimbabwe continues to face considerable economic challenges which have an inevitable affect on our work at Ebenezer. One of the challenges in July has been a lack of phone network in the whole region surrounding Ebenezer. As we depend on mobile banking to sell produce from our onsite store, this has had a negative impact on our sales.



We have been catching up with some our recent graduates and we are delighted that a good number of them are finding employment or business opportunities. Bongani (pictured left) has been farming a batch of 200 broilers and planting crops in an area close to Ebenezer.

# CROPPING

7.65 hectares currently under irrigation



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We had a good visit from our Pecan Consultant in July and we are now preparing to plant our first group of trees from seedlings we have been growing for the past 3 years.

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Apprentices have been very busy this month preparing land for the majority of our summer planting which will be happening over the next two months. It has been great seeing the new first years getting stuck into land prep and it marks a good start for our season!

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In July our tomato ripening was good and we harvested a total of 19,600kgs. We were pleased to exceed our harvest target for the month despite a lack of inputs.

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We also harvested 10,934 bunches of onions this month. We were especially pleased with the bulb size of this harvest.

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The kitchen garden continues to thrive, with peas, peppers and spinach ready for harvest.

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# LIVESTOCK

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In July we welcomed a new member of staff to Ebenezer. Brierly Kuhudzayi will be managing our dairy and we're delighted to welcome him on to the team along with his wife Mackenzie and their young daughter, Charlotte.

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Last month we told you of our new contract supplying milk to Dairibord. We were hugely pleased with the results from the milk sample they took from our dairy - not only is our milk scoring highly on overall quality, it also has the highest fat content of any of their suppliers across Zimbabwe.

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Other news from the dairy is that 3 female calves were born this month.

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The majority of our layer flocks have been hitting or exceeding lay-rate targets so we are pleased with production across our layer houses.

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In July we placed two batches of broilers. One batch is a new breed called Sasso which we are testing as a good alternative for small scale farmers. The advantage of Sasso birds is they are hardy and can be grown as broilers or layers. Our initial observations have been that these birds are strong with a reduced mortality rate.

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