

# FEBRUARY 2022



## EBENEZER KAZUNGULA

# NEWS



Big news this month was our two Selection Days with applicants for our next Ebenezer course starting in March! We had a fun couple of days with almost 50 candidates who came to find out more about Ebenezer, meet our staff and current apprentices, and be interviewed!



As part of the selection process, applicants were not only interviewed but had a taste of what life at Ebenezer is like, having a go at weeding some fields as well as clearing manure from a chicken house! There was also time for some fun and games and an opportunity for them to ask questions to our second years and staff.



At the end of the two days came the very difficult task of selecting which applicants we would invite to join us. It is always hard having to say no to some candidates, but at the same time we are delighted to have invited 22 new apprentices to join us as first years in March!



We enjoyed another visit this month from some colleagues from Ebenezer Zimbabwe. We are enjoying deepening our connections with the team there and are glad that Zimbabwean borders are opening up more, hopefully meaning we can invite more visitors from across the border!

Second years have been continuing to enjoy lessons. We have been studying the book of Ephesians over the past few weeks and this has led to some great discussions!

Building work has continued apace this month and we were delighted to have nearly finished one of our staff houses with the Phiri family moving in in March!

# PRODUCTION

After over a year focusing on broiler production, apprentices have been really enjoying the opportunity to get involved in Cropping at Ebenezer! Everyone has been assigned to a few hours work in the cropping division alongside their other productive learning in broilers and layers.

We have successfully interplanted okra and cabbage, with our okra plants providing a great shade for our cabbages. In February we started harvesting the okra and the cabbage is getting close to being ready for harvest.

Our apprentices are also gaining experience in growing maize as well as being involved in the planting of onion and tomato.

Our 4 second year ladies closed two batches of broilers in February. Between them they placed 8,045 birds. We were glad to see weights improve from previous batches but with high mortalities of 7.5% - 8.3% between the two houses, they still struggled to hit a good FCR.

Our four apprentices on the layer team have continued to enjoy their time in the layer house where they have been maintaining good standards despite an increase in mortalities and a reduction in lay-rates that dropped to 83.8% from a higher January rate of 90.4%. This was due to challenges in feed delivery and while it was frustrating for the layer team, it was a good learning experience in the realities of challenges that layer famers face!

