

MAY 2022



EBENEZER KAZUNGULA

NEWS



May has seen our current block and our first year Foundation Course draw to a close - it has been a full and busy time ending training modules and preparing for the foundation graduation. We are so proud of our first years who have embraced the Foundation Course with enthusiasm and shown a lot of energy in both their Productive Learning Areas and in their lessons. There has been a wonderful atmosphere on site as apprentices have prepared for their 3 month graduation, with dance practices filling many evenings!



Family Nights continue to be good times of fun, fellowship and some great discussions as we have finished the Alpha course. Feedback from apprentices is that they have especially enjoyed the Alpha talks and discussions and that they have grown in their faith and understanding as a result.



Our second years have enjoyed some very practical business lessons looking at marketing. With competitive challenges to see who could sell the most biscuits among the Ebenezer community, the 12 apprentices learnt a lot about challenges of market reach and supply and demand as they all competed to market the same product to their fellow apprentices and staff members!



We were glad this month for the opportunity for staff member Alice to visit Ebenezer Zimbabwe. She enjoyed connecting with the team there and she was a huge blessing to them, especially in terms of input with their kitchen team who benefited a lot from her culinary expertise.

Sports and games have been a lot of fun as we have daily played volleyball, netball and soccer. However, poor staff member Gladys suffered a serious sport-related injury following a competitive netball game and is now immobile for the next 3 months as she recovers from a leg fracture! Sorry, Gladys!

PRODUCTION

We have been encouraged to see our broiler bird weights increase throughout this month. Sadly, alongside the weight increase has been an increase in mortality, so the batches will not be as profitable as we'd like but we are glad to be overcoming some of the challenges in weight we've faced for several months now.

In May, eight apprentices closed two batches of broilers and are awaiting the final results on how these batches did.

Despite some challenges with irrigation, our small cropping area at Ebenezer is looking smart and fruitful! We currently have in the ground: tomato, carrot, maize and onion which we are in the process of transplanting.

First year apprentices have done a great job with their first conservation farming plot of maize using Foundations for Farming methods which they have been learning about in their lessons and practically implementing in their field. It has been exciting for them to see their seeds germinate in the past few weeks. Thanks to their close observations, they spotted some pest damage early on and have taken quick action to combat further damage from army worm which had been chewing their young plants!

We bid farewell this month to Ackim Musonda who has been overseeing our production for the last few months. We wish Ackim all the best in his new role with Arise Zambia and we are grateful for all he has inputted into Ebenezer during his time with us.

The lay rate in our layer house has dropped as a result of some feed challenges which has been unfortunate.

