

SEPTEMBER 2022



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



September has been an exciting month at Ebenezer. We've seen a lot of visitors passing through, some of whom you will read about below. We also went on our annual Holy Spirit night away as part of the Youth Alpha Course we have been doing on our Family Nights. This is always a much-anticipated outing as all staff and apprentices head to Shalom Campsite for an overnight trip with lots of fun and games including horse riding, a zip line and fun on a scary water slide! Interspersed with these activities, we take time to explore more about who the Holy Spirit is and why we need him, and offer the opportunity to receive the Holy Spirit for those who want to. There were precious times of ministry and it was a privilege to pray for many of our apprentices as they deepen their faith and go further in their relationship with Jesus.

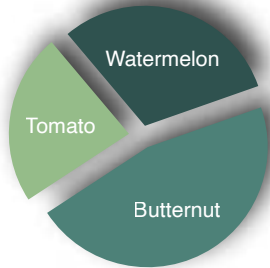
We were thrilled to welcome Makola Phiri for a short visit from Ebenezer Kazungula this month! As she takes on a new training role in Zambia, Makola particularly benefited from spending time with our trainers and says of her visit that she was "inspired and really felt at home."

Our second years have been enjoying lots of visitors to their lessons this block. They have had Clarence Mutangara coming from Hamara to give a workshop on Marketing as well as different pastors coming to share in their Bible lessons on topics coming out of their Ephesians study such as the Trinity, Salvation, Baptism and Eternity!

Another visitor who we welcomed after a long absence was Willie du Plessis, an experienced dairy farmer from South Africa who was instrumental in the establishment of our own dairy herd. Willie had an excellent time sharing his expertise with our Advanced Agriculture Class who asked some excellent questions and learnt a lot!

PRODUCTION

6.5 hectares under irrigation



A real highlight of this month has been the installation of 240 solar panels that will power our main irrigation pump! The panels are up and once funds have been secured for the additional bits of equipment we will be pumping on solar! This will result in huge diesel savings, not to mention environmentally friendly farming!

With summer beginning to make an appearance, it is pleasing to see many of our recently planted crops germinating and flourishing. Butternut and watermelon crops are looking really pleasing, and our tomato seedlings are planted and ready for trellising.



Following our spate of sickness and mortality in our dairy herd, we're pleased to say the cows are now looking in much better condition and our average milk yields are now at 16 litres per cow per day. In total our dairy produced 6,461.3 litres of saleable milk in September.

Our current flock of broilers is also thriving, having reached 6 weeks with a mortality under 5%. As the batch nears its end it is looking like we will hit an FCR under 1.8.



Things are also progressing well with our layer flocks. House 4 is doing particularly well with its cages and manure removal belts fixed. Lay-rates in that house are reaching 4% above international standards for birds that age!