

OCTOBER 2022



EBENEZER RAPALE

NEWS



October was an especially exciting month at Ebenezer Rapale as anticipation built up towards our Advanced Graduation on the 29th! It was fantastic to be joined by many parents for a special day celebrating our graduates who have completed two years at Ebenezer. We had an amazing ceremony, with Craig Neilson as our guest of honour - Craig is the CEO of New Horizons, a local business that has supported and partnered with Ebenezer. Of course, you can't have such a celebration without a feast, and so we also enjoyed sharing a delicious meal together before bidding farewell to our graduates. Our prayer is that they will continue to grow in their faith, in their character, and in the skills they have acquired during their time with us.

Another big event this month was our Selection Camp, with 31 applicants joining us for a weekend in the middle of October. We had fun with some hoeing races to test physical strength and some team building challenges that got people scratching their heads and working creatively to complete tasks. As well as us interviewing applicants, the Camp provides an opportunity for candidates to find out more about us and decide if life at Ebenezer is right for them. There was a great atmosphere throughout the whole weekend and we especially enjoyed evenings around the camp fire, with words of encouragement from Alberto and Andrew. At the end of it all we were delighted to offer places to 24 new apprentices who will be joining us in mid-November.

This month we also enjoyed a visit from some Ebenezer Zimbabwe colleagues. It was a good few days of sharing experiences and ideas that can benefit all Ebenezer sites across Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Zambia.

PRODUCTION

Our fields are looking beautiful as the irrigation we installed earlier this year is providing a steady supply of water to our crops. Currently in the ground we have maize, cauliflower, cabbage, tomatoes, onions and cucumber. Our half hectare of tomatoes are beginning to flower and our apprentices have done an excellent job of caring for the crop, keeping it well-mulched and well-weeded!



Our green maize is also doing well. 1 hectare is now very tall and will be ready for harvest at the end of November, with more to follow in December.



We are seeing success in our green house with vegetables being grown not for sale but to supply our kitchen and to bless the community around Ebenezer.

Ebenezer apprentices are currently farming just under 4,000 layer birds. The birds are 56 weeks old and are hitting an excellent lay-rate for their age of between 86-91%.



INTRODUCING

Franque Baptista Celestino is one of our recent graduates who has just completed his 2 years at Ebenezer. He is 23 and comes from Gurué, 400 km south of Ebenezer. Franque was not close to the Lord when he first came to Ebenezer, but we saw him grow every day while he was with us, showing maturity, responsibility and a willingness to learn. Within 8 or 9 months he was showing such strength of character that he was given responsibility to look after our irrigation system and he excelled in that role throughout his time at Ebenezer. We have offered Franque this role as an official job and we are pleased that he has accepted. We are looking forward to continuing to disciple and work with Franque as he rejoins us on site as a staff team member!

