

NOVEMBER 2022



EBENEZER KAZUNGULA

# NEWS



November 25th marked a momentous occasion at Ebenezer Kazungula as we celebrated our first ever Advanced Graduation! We are so proud of our pioneer apprentices who joined us in November 2020. Since then they have faced many challenges and have shown resilience, innovation, creativity and character. We had a wonderful time celebrating their success, joined by lots of family and friends. There was singing, dancing, awards and prizes, and of course an absolute feast prepared by chef Alice and her team. Please pray for our new graduates as they embark on new ventures and continue their journeys of faith beyond Ebenezer!

We were delighted to be joined by some of the staff team from Ebenezer Zimbabwe for our graduation. With the risk of our first years feeling a bit deflated following the graduation and the second years' departure, we were particularly glad to have George with us from Zimbabwe. George is amazing at organising games and fun and he had us almost crying with laughter as he gave us challenges and competitions to do.

November also saw us complete another jam-packed training block. Apprentices have been implementing some brilliant community-improvement projects coming out of their latest Communication module, "Celebrating Community." Projects included a drama on kindness, a visit to donate books and pencils to the Heartlands Community School, visits to encourage staff members and a concerted effort to help in the kitchen at Ebenezer

Our first years are now heading into Boost Weeks. During this 7-week period, they will be taking a break from classroom training to focus on production, with the opportunity for some of them to take some time out and visit their families as well.

# PRODUCTION

Big news this month has been some serious land preparation to increase our cropping area from our small plot to 5 hectares! The apprentices and the tractor have been busy clearing and preparing land and in the next month we will be planting 2.5 hectares of maize and 2.5 hectares of sunflower. Our apprentices are excited at the prospect of greater experience in cropping and we look forward to seeing some flourishing fields!

Our small garden plot continues to provide us with rape, okra and cabbage for our kitchen.

Four apprentices farming two batches of broilers sent 10,791 birds to slaughter in November. The batches were sadly not successful with low weights and high mortality. Average weights between the two batches varied between 1.09 kg and 1.52 kg, and in total 14,046 kg of live weight meat was sent to the abattoir.

Another two batches of broilers placed in October were just about ready for uplift by the end of November. Mortality has been a problem, especially with one batch where it sadly reached 22%. Average weights on these birds have also been low, only hitting 1.5 kg in 6 weeks. However, the apprentices farming these birds say that they have learnt a lot about hard work and have gained good experience along the way.

At the end of November, 10,184 chicks were placed and are being managed by 6 apprentices. With some of these apprentices now on their second batch of birds, they say they are enjoying applying what they have learnt in previous batches and as a result have improved their feeding programmes and bio-security.

