

JANUARY 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



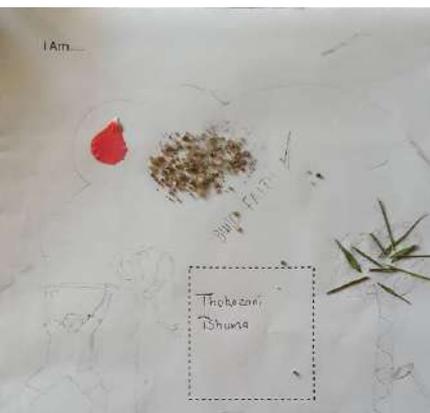
2023 has got off to a challenging start for us at Ebenezer Matobo. Whilst in every area of Ebenezer we ended 2022 in a better place than we started, it is also true that we are facing a real financial challenge as we enter this new year. As we push to decrease our overheads and increase our production sales and efficiency, we are so grateful for the ways we are seeing God provide for us day by day and week by week. We are also grateful to continue seeing him at work in the lives of our apprentices, transforming mindsets and drawing them closer to him - this remains our vision and our priority even in the midst of practical challenges!



We have started a new Family Night Series this month focused on "Feeding my Faith". As we connect with our graduates we see that many of them find themselves in environments very different to Ebenezer, without community support and day-to-day discipleship. So in this series we are looking at how we can Connect with God, Flourish in Community, and Bless Others, wherever we are and whatever our circumstances. We have enjoyed having visiting speakers come and share with us as it is always good for apprentices to hear some fresh voices.



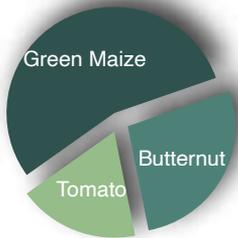
Over the past couple of months our Farm Team have been doing an incredible job digging an **enormous** hole and installing our new bio-digester, a kind donation from friends of Ebenezer. As we feed our bio-digester daily with chicken manure, it will produce more than enough gas for our kitchen, meaning we no longer need to burn firewood! In time it will also supply gas for staff and apprentices to have hot showers!



Our lady apprentices have been having some good times hanging out and learning together on Friday nights. As well as lots of fun and laughter, they have been looking at their personality types, strengths and weaknesses and having confidence in who they are. This ties in nicely with our current Communication lessons which are focusing on what makes us unique and how we can appreciate the uniqueness of others!

PRODUCTION

11 hectares under irrigation



Big news in our cropping section is the installation of 4 new green houses kindly donated to us! A team from Harare had the green houses erected in just a week, they look great and we are preparing them for planting as soon as possible!

Second year apprentice, Daphne, requested to spend 2 weeks working in our kitchen demo plot, where we are endeavouring to increase the amount of food we are able to grow for our own consumption. She worked with such dedication and the plot is looking amazing - well done Daphne!

We started the new year with a new batch of 11,163 broilers. Apprentices have done a great job managing the birds with mortality only at 3% almost 5 weeks into the batch. We have seen an improvement in feed supply which is very pleasing and the 7 apprentices managing the batch are happy with progress.

Our layer section is struggling with some feed supply challenges which has affected our productivity. Apprentices have shown a good attitude in the face of this and are seeing the experience as a great lesson in some of the realities farmers face! In better news we are grateful we have seen no thefts this month!

Some of our dairy cows have been suffering from mastitis this month. This has prevented us selling our milk to Dairboard, our regular customer, so we are working hard to treat the cows while selling as much milk as possible locally.

