

JUNE 2023



EBENEZER KAZUNGULA

# NEWS



With our new apprentices settled in and our first training block well underway, June has seen all of our heads and hearts expanding as we live, learn and grow together. First year apprentices have been delving in Foundations for Farming, an approach to conservation farming which is based on biblical principles and challenges mindsets and traditions related to land and cropping. The training is very practical, so apprentices are gaining hands on experience as they apply what they are learning to their own plot of maize.

Second years have been having fun with some business lessons focused around marketing. Competing against each other to sell products in communities around Ebenezer, they have learnt a lot about supply and demand, market limitations, and the importance of product pricing!

Spiritually, we have all been learning and growing through our Family Nights where we have been going through the Alpha Course, a discussion based program which introduces the foundations of the Christian faith.

As part of the Alpha Course, we enjoyed an evening focusing on the Holy Spirit - who he is and how and why we need him! We especially enjoyed welcoming a team from Ebenezer Zimbabwe to join us for our Holy Spirit night. It was fun meeting another Ebenezer apprentice, Tendai, and we enjoyed fun and games with George, a Zimbabwean friend of Ebenezer who has visited us many times and always brings a lot of enthusiasm, joy and energy with him!

# PRODUCTION

Our apprentices and coaches have been showing a positive attitude despite numerous delays in broiler placements. We have been impressed with their attitude and work ethic while they wait for chicks!

While we wait for broiler chicks to be placed, we have been putting a lot of energy and time into gathering hay bales to be used as bedding for future batches. By the end of June, apprentices had gathered and stored over 2,000 bales, enough to serve 16 batches!

Pleasing progress has continued on our layer house which we are building in the traditional style, with a thatch roof and dirt floor. The thatch is now complete and work is about to commence to install cages and manure belts.

Our cropping team has been working with joy. As well as planting maize, they have done an excellent job of transplanting cabbage seedlings and planting onion in a small nursery. First year apprentices have also been growing a plot of maize as part of their Foundations for Farming Agriculture lessons.

We received good news from Ebenezer graduates, Chilo and Stephen, who are working as trainee field officers with out grower layer farmers in Kabuyu. This month they represented 6 of their farmers at a District Agricultural Show and were super proud of their farmers who won first prize for Inclusive Economic Transformation in Livestock Co-operatives! It is nice to see our graduates thriving in their new roles and it is encouraging to see the efforts of their co-operatives recognised in this way.

