

JUNE 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



This month marked Ebenezer Matobo's 15th annual graduation, with 38 apprentices graduating from our 2-year Advanced Course and 56 from our 1-year Intermediate Course. As well as celebrating their achievement, we took the opportunity to reminisce over the past 15 years and the many ways in which the Lord has helped us. Previous graduates and past members of the staff team joined us for a fantastic time of thanksgiving, praise and celebration. We appreciated words of encouragement from community leaders and Bishop Patson Netha, the chairman of our Board. We also enjoyed songs from the Union Brothers, an apprentice-led imbube group formed back in 2010, and some excellent speeches from this year's graduating classes. And, as always, our celebrations continued with a delicious meal shared with friends and family.



Another major event in June, and a first for us, was us waving off two Ebenezer graduates as they embark on a year-long layer production internship at Herbruck's Poultry Ranch in Michigan, USA! Herbruck's is one of the USA's largest egg producers, with over 10 million birds producing almost 3 billion eggs per year! They are long term supporters of Ebenezer who have partnered with us over many years and played an important role in supporting and facilitating the Ebenezer vision. Bongimpilo Moyo and Brian Mangondo graduated in 2022 and since then have been working hard on internship applications and visa requirements. We are absolutely thrilled to see this opportunity open up for them! They have been enjoying their experience so far, a particular highlight being the placement of 128,100 chicks in one day as well as the chance to meet other interns from different countries. We are so proud of their achievement and excited for the door it opens for future graduates.

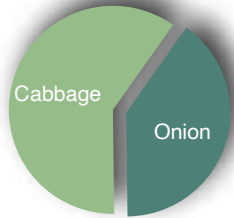


Cross-border exchanges seem to be becoming a regular thing which is bringing joy to staff and apprentices in Zimbabwe and Zambia. This month it was the turn of apprentice Tendai Jope who enjoyed visiting Ebenezer Kazungula to experience Ebenezer life on the other side of the Zambezi!



PRODUCTION

2.5 hectares under
irrigation



This month we completed our sugar bean harvest with 1,100 kgs harvested in June. This has been a successful crop which is now benefitting us in the kitchen! Harvesting of our greenhouse tomatoes continued this month with another 1,200 kgs sent to the markets in town. At the same time, we have been planting another 1,000 tomato plants in our greenhouses.



We received the results from our latest broiler batch. While there was some disappointment at the end of the batch with many birds lost to severe coccidiosis, thanks to the hard work of our apprentices throughout the cycle, the batch was still profitable!



Last month we reported that we were significantly reducing our layer flocks with the aim of achieving better lay rates by growing our own birds from chicks. While we have less birds, we are taking the opportunity to rebuild the cages in Layer House 2, to fully utilise space when we do place birds. We have also installed lights and a generator in House 1 in order to increase daylight hours and increase egg production. In total our layers produced 59,895 eggs in June.



Our dairy has seen continued good production with cows averaging around 16.3 litres each per day. We are glad to have fixed our chiller which means less wastage. Other good news this month was the birth of 3 new calves.
