

SEPTEMBER 2023



EBENEZER RAPALE

NEWS



With the arrival of summer, temperatures have been rising! Our Family Groups have been enjoying the chance to cool down together with some post-church swimming on Sundays! Pictured here is the Cunningham Family Group, relaxing and refreshing after a dip in the pool.



In the fight for gender equality, and in our continued partnership with GIZ, this month we trained 27 women in egg production. It is not easy to gather this number of women for one training, so we are grateful for the efforts of local community leaders in co-ordinating with us to raise awareness and enable this to happen.



We have started a new income-generating project in making bricks. We have a fantastic machine and a ready customer in Rapale International School who have contracted us to supply them with 10,000 bricks.



This month we enjoyed a visit from Renée, all the way from Ebenezer Matobo in Zimbabwe! We enjoyed hearing news from other Ebenezers as well as working with her to keep developing our curriculum and apprenticeship plans. We were encouraged by her comments on the wonderful family atmosphere at Ebenezer Rapale and she enjoyed time spent with our apprentices, despite the language barrier!

PRODUCTION

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Alongside harvesting onions, the month of September saw our apprentices transplanting half a hectare of tomatoes. As you can see from the photo, they did a great job and worked to a high standard.

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In an exciting new venture, we are working with a Dutch consultant to start an area of agroforestry and regenerative agriculture. Our aim is to build healthy soil in a natural way that ensures the thriving of microbial life such as bacteria and fungi, as well as earth worms and other beneficial organisms. This approach involves planting many varieties of trees in lines, between which crops can be planted. As well as benefiting our soil, these trees will also provide fruit and firewood!

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We have been busy this month building the structure for a fenced yard to demonstrate small-scale poultry production. Using bamboo and sticks which are easy to acquire from around the community of Rapale, apprentices have been building this structure and they will be the ones taking responsibility for the aviaries. This will provide them with an excellent learning experience and also be a practice which will be easy for them to implement in their own homes.

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We are delighted to once more be farming a flock of layer birds. The birds are 30 weeks old and hitting a pleasing 92% lay rate thanks to great stewardship and production standards on the part of our apprentices.

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