

DECEMBER 2023



EBENEZER RAPALE



# NEWS

December got off to an exciting start as we held a selection camp for our new intake in January 2024! We welcomed 47 applicants to a 2-day camp during which they participated in many team building games, underwent interviews and showed us their farming skills with some weeding challenges! We also took them up our local mountain so that could capture a broader perspective and grasp the Ebenezer vision. A particular highlight was an evening spent around a bonfire with fun singing and further interactive explanations of our vision to see young people alive in Christ, transformed and empowered for the blessing of the nations. Of those who came, we have invited 9 young ladies and 19 young men to be our new first years starting on January 15th!



As 2023 drew to a close, we had some good Christmas and end of year celebrations. Apprentices love to be on site at Christmas time and this year they enjoyed a special lunch and some memorable activities, all organised by themselves!



There was also some good church Christmas celebrations. On one particular Sunday, each member brought food to share and there was a wonderful church family lunch together following a service that encouraged us to maintain our identity in Christ.

# PRODUCTION

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In December we closed our current maize harvest, with a total yield of 6 tons of dried maize from 2 hectares planted. We had hoped for a harvest of 10 tons but unfortunately faced some theft and other challenges.  
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We also harvested tomatoes, with our fields continuing to produce good yields.  
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As well as harvesting maize and tomatoes in December, apprentices have been busy preparing land for new crops. Holes have been dug for maize planting and a seedbed prepared for the next tomato crop.  
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Production has remained consistent with our layer birds. At the end of the month the birds were 43 weeks old and hitting a pleasing lay rate of 92%.  
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Work has continued to complete our small scale poultry houses, in a style which can be easily replicated by apprentices at home. As you can see, the structures are now almost complete and they are looking smart! With finishing touches going in, we hope to place birds in these houses in February.  
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