

APRIL 2024



EBENEZER RAPALE



# NEWS

April has been a really exciting month as we have started a new training block with our recent Foundation Course graduates embarking on the 9 month Intermediate Course. We are introducing some new training material this block with first years digging into the 5 Pillars of Agriculture (Environment, Water, Food, Health, Records) and the 5 Pillars of Business (Production, Marketing, Records, Finance, People).

We have continued with combined first and second year Bible lessons, with the introduction of a new course called Chronological Bible Storying (CBS). CBS journeys through the Bible's story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation through the medium of story-telling and discussion. We have had some very interesting times of discussion with excellent questions arising, such as, how do I know if God speaks to me or not? and, if God is in control of all things, why do we suffer robbery? Lively debate around a wide range of topics has been challenging and encouraging for us all!

Another highlight this month has been the visit of brothers and sisters from New Frontiers churches in the Netherlands to our local congregations. The visit has been an impactful time for apprentices through the interactions they have had, learning and teaching new songs, and through testimonies and prayers shared around the fire.

During the same visit, four new elders were appointed at the Namitar congregation. It is exciting to see these young men appointed as pillars for the extension of the Lord's kingdom in our area, and we are thrilled that graduate and staff member, Juma, is one of them!

# PRODUCTION

Onion transplanting has continued this month, with apprentices working to transplant half a hectare.



We have also begun our maize harvest this month. Two hectares are being harvested, to be used as seed. Local business Novos Horizontes will be distributing the seed to local out grower farmers in the area.



The other crop to be harvested in April was cabbages. Unfortunately, very high temperatures which we experienced towards the end of the crop, meant that even with irrigation we struggled to hit our desired yield in terms of cabbage head sizes.



In very positive news, we placed our fourth and fifth batches of broilers in April. We have seen the apprentices work with such commitment to grow the batches of 350+ birds and the results of their hard work and responsible management are visible and encouraging for each of them as well as for us as a team.

The results of our first two broiler batches have seen our birds reach weights of 1.8 kg. Mortality was pleasingly low in our first batch, at 1.9%. This rose to 7% in our second batch, due to poor quality chicks received. We are working with our supplier to ensure this does not happen again.

