



# EBENEZER MATOBO

It has been another active and lively month at Ebenezer! We have had many visitors passing through and it has been fun for our apprentices to interact with different people from around the globe. We enjoyed hosting friends from the US and UK who were running soccer clinics as a means of outreach to children in the local area. We also welcomed eye surgeon, Dr. Beatty, and his team, to run an eye clinic at Ebenezer. It is amazing to see people from the community blessed with free eye care and gifted with glasses which can have a life-changing impact for those struggling to see!

Our new apprentices continue to throw themselves into Ebenezer life with energy and passion. We have seen them tackle new farming tasks with eagerness and dedication as they rotate around our various production areas, and in lessons they have been equally enthusiastic. Business lessons have been especially fun this month as first years learn about budgeting and planning through a very practical activity that involves preparing and enjoying tea and biscuits in every lesson (until they run out due to unexpected staff visitors!).

Another highlight this month was the opportunity to host a combined church service for three local churches, each of which our apprentices have been visiting over the last two months.

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# CROPPING

August has seen our cropping teams start our summer planting, with our first crops going into the ground. So far we have planted 2 hectares each of butternut, watermelon and tomatoes along with  $\frac{1}{3}$  hectare of cabbage. These crops have germinated well and our teams are working to plant a further 10 hectares in the coming month.

In August we harvested 12,623 bunches of onion, 2,165 cabbages and 420 kg of greenhouse tomatoes. Our greenhouse tomatoes are doing very well and we are continuing to see a good result from using biological controls on them.

Earlier this year we started to grow chomolia (kale) to supply our kitchen. This has been a successful venture and we are now able to fully supply our kitchen without having to purchase any extra.

We have been facing some challenges with wild animals coming at night to eat our crops! This has led to apprentices volunteering in rotation as night guards to protect our crops.





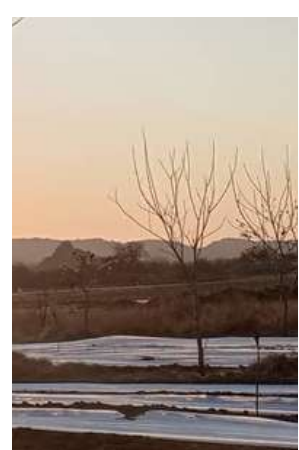
# LIVESTOCK

We welcome 3 newborn calves into our dairy in August, 2 bulls and 1 heifer. We continue to milk 41 cows which this month produced 20,424 litres of milk, 16,222 litres of which was sold. Our milk production has dropped a little to an average of 15.9 litres per cow per day.

As we continue to work towards seeing an increase in our milk production, this month we planted 0.6 ha of lucern grass which will provide great grazing for our cows. Lucern is an excellent feed supplement as dairy cows like it, it provides good nutrition and it is easily digestible.

Our layer birds produced a total of 240,301 eggs in August. Our smaller flock hit an average lay rate of 82% which is considerably above the international standard for their age. Our larger flock continues to struggle to produce as it should, although we did see an increase in lay rate this month.

We welcomed visitors from the International Egg Foundation (IEF) this month. IEF is a charity with a vision to see a global increase in egg consumption! They brought with them two experts from Lohmann, a global supplier of layer hens. We appreciated their input with our apprentices and the time they took to troubleshoot with us over our problematic flock!





# IMVUSELELO

In previous newsletters, you may have seen us refer to the WAGES camp that happens in April each year and in which a team from Ebenezer always participates. WAGES stands for We Are God's Eager Servants and is an initiative run by the Sethule Orphans Care Trust for young adults aged 18–30. Teams spend months preparing for Bible quizzes, singing and drama competitions, and other fun activities which all form part of the WAGES Camp. Ebenezer's current team, Imvuselelo (meaning "Revival"), came away with 4 trophies this year, including the overall Bible quiz trophy, which they have now won for three years in a row!

Imvuselelo take their preparation for WAGES very seriously, meeting often to practise and prepare for the next contest. This month, they enjoyed a new WAGES experience – visiting the ATTIC camp, which is the "baby" of WAGES, the same camp but run for 13–18 year olds. ATTIC stands for A Time To Invite Christ and is an exciting 7-day camp for youngsters where they enjoy games, competitions and biblical input, especially around topics relevant to them such as Managing Relationships, How to Present Yourself, and Transgenderism.

The 11 members of Imvuselelo were invited to sing and present at the camp and they had a blast, performing two songs and giving a slogan presentation which encouraged young people to "Wake Up!"

Abigail Twala was one of those who attended. She says, "It was nice to see us and other people our age leading and handling everything on this camp. I am now a second year and I am learning that I don't have to just **do** things but I have to know **how** to do things. Managing people and leading others, both at Ebenezer and events like ATTIC, is challenging but good!"

AUGUST 2024

