

AUGUST 2025



EBENEZER RAPALE



It was a great joy to welcome new apprentices to Ebenezer this month! We are excited to have them with us and as they have settled into our holistic discipleship and practical program, we are seeing that they have adapted well to the Ebenezer environment and culture. Our approach with apprentices allows us to cultivate in them not only agricultural expertise, but also ethical conviction, care for the land, empathy, servant leadership and the ability to learn together. The arrival of this new cohort represents a renewal of energy for our community, strengthening support networks, promoting local sustainability and preparing agents of transformation who act with a critical mind, open heart, and hands that work for the prosperity of all.

## INTRODUCING

We are Jeremias and Estefania, newly wed graduates who met as apprentices at Ebenezer. As apprentices, we discovered a shared vision: to lead by humility, to listen carefully to local needs, and to act responsibly for the common good, especially in rural areas where there are many challenges.



At Ebenezer, we experienced holistic discipleship, growing in our faith through relationships with neighbours, rural families and youth in the region. We learnt about servant leadership through listening, recognising challenges, asking for help, and empowering those around us. We also learnt about community sustainability, how to plan actions with local partnerships, use resources responsibly, and implement simple actions that make a real difference. As we enter married life together, our vision is to serve rural communities together with integrity and love, creating a space for welcome, dialogue and learning for children, young people and families. Our desire is to be salt and light.

Salt: Listening to real needs and supporting with simple and sustainable actions.

Light: Living with honesty, respect, and the courage to confront injustices, even when it is difficult.

# PRODUCTION

Our apprentices have been busy this month transplanting onion seedlings and along the way have learnt a lot about bulb establishment, irrigation management, fertilisation and pest control.

We have also been preparing tomato seedlings for planting. Germination has taken place in a controlled environment and apprentices have been managing fertiliser applications as they prepare to transplant the seedlings into the field.

The third crop our apprentices have been farming is beetroot. We have been experimenting with cultivation, focusing on local soil use, balanced nutrition, and pest/disease management. Across all three crops we are seeing signs of initial vigour, development of stable seedlings and a good rate of germination in line with our expectations.

Our small-scale broiler cycles continue successfully and are generating confidence, practical skills, support networks and real development opportunities for our apprentices. The celebration at the end of each cycle not only recognises achievements, but reinforces the culture of care, continuous improvement and ambition for more good results.

The performance of our layer birds remains solid with a current lay rate of 89% at 65 weeks of age. With some fine-tuning of nutrition, lighting and environmental comfort, it is feasible to reach or exceed our 90-92% lay-rate target.

