



BRINGING JOY & PURPOSE TO ORPHANS



## BUSINESS UPDATES FOR MAY 2024

**Introduction:** The month of May brought both increase and decrease to the Lifesong businesses. The Lord continues to be faithful and give increase in so many ways, while we deal with the reality of decrease or shortage experienced in other areas, especially in both water and electricity. Zambia is dealing with a country wide drought with the lack of adequate rainfall. And while the country is 90+% dependent on hydro power, the drought resulted in load- shedding (rolling black-outs) of up to 8 hours per day. This has an impact on everyone as well as performance and efficiency of production.

**Berry Farm:** At the Berry Farm, we have had a decrease in production with the older Strawberry plants but replanted new plants that came in from South Africa. The new plants are starting to produce fruit. The customers are eagerly awaiting the new harvest increase. In addition, the blueberry plants are starting to see fruit which we hope should be ready to harvest and send to customers next month. We also had a new shipment of Strawberry plants come in from Spain that arrived successfully in country. Upon arrival, these plants were immediately transported to the Berry farm and handled by the Bery Farm team.



**Lifesong Vision:** Lifesong Sustainable Business's most latest venture, Lifesong Vision, has been growing in the last few months and getting their footprint into the community. The sales team of Eshelley and Jack, with the oversight of John and myself, have been busy moving around the city of Kitwe and selling glasses. The guys have a 'mobile' operation for the most part and are able to go where the opportunity is available. They have sold within the compounds in and around Kitwe, at schools and organizations that will allow them, and even within Lifesong schools. We are reviewing what has been working and what has not, and discussing future options and opportunities to grow the business. We have had positive feedback from customers, saying they appreciate the low-cost option to be able to see better. Many times, the customers didn't even realize how bad their eyesight was.



**Twalima Farms & Nursery:** At Twalima Farm and Nursery, after some extensive planning, preparation and production, we have seen some great yield. At the nursery, we have been able to grow high value crops like broccoli and cauliflower for sale, as well as lettuce and cabbage to support our Lifesong schools. The Twalima team not only increased the yield but increased the production area of where crops are being grown. In addition, there have been multiple trials conducted that help fine-tune our farming inputs to bring about the best outputs. The Twalima Nursery has supported the development and growing success of Twalima Farm. One example is the Onion seedlings from the nursery has grown successfully at the farm, and we have had a great harvest. We are now starting to go to market with the harvested onions and shipping to our customers.



As we have grown our relationships and support of our customers, we have been able to add additional products to support them with. Currently we have over 10 other products that we are able to purchase locally in Zambia and deliver to our DRC customers. Our customers and the Lifesong team are excited about the opportunity for this growing opportunity.



**Discipleship Program:** The Discipleship program at the Berry Farm and Twalima Nursery has been going on regularly for the last few months. The students have enjoyed the learning and growing experience of being at the farm and being involved, first-hand, with the work. The pastors are teaching the students about God’s design for work, and how each one of us must be engaged in work. The pastors have put together a curriculum which they will teach to each of the student groups that come to the farm.



Our Pastor Collins has the following report “Just to give a brief report on what took place at the farm discipleship today. The discipleship went very well, the students were oriented by brother Emmanuel and Mr. Katapa. After the word of prayer, we split the students into three groups, the first group were instructed to work at the berries farm, the second group was working at the packaging, and the third group were removing the substrate bags. The fellowship moved very well among the students and this was quite interesting especially with the way the students loved work, and this moved me so much. The students worked without complaining and I had a good time to have a discipleship with each group. After the lunch hour we had devotion and the response was good. I helped the student to see that work is a glorious thing and not punishment as the world views it. Everything moved very well we praise our God, and Lord Jesus Christ.”



On behalf of the Lifesong Sustainable businesses, each of the employees, customers, and students supported, thank you for the ongoing prayers and support. We see and experience God’s hand and blessing in all we do, as we seek to glorify God in the work.

*In Hlm,  
Joe Marton*