

Increasing The Harvest

by Jaime

In the world of agriculture, more is not always better. But when you increase yield and increase crop quality, there are not many farmers who wouldn't be all ears (no pun intended). A recent infographic in the Kenya Airways magazine shared statistics about the country of Burundi in Africa: More than 80% of the people who live there are farmers! Agriculture represents the livelihood of billions of people around the globe. Helping Christ-followers improve their practices to increase yields not only improves their lives, but will also give them a powerful opportunity to share Christ with farmers around them.

Many of the pastors and church leaders that we train in our medical, dental, eye sight, film, or mechanical trainings are also farmers. They are not commercial farmers like we have in North America, rather, they typically have a small piece of land at their home or church that they depend on to feed their family. Last year, as we talked to our trainees in country after country, we saw the need to develop a farming training.

While the need was clear, we didn't want to reinvent the wheel, especially if others were already teaching farming techniques for maximizing production on small plots. Through one of our partner ministries, Crown Financial Ministries, our president, Steve, went to Zimbabwe to see a ministry called Foundations for Farming first-hand. Impressed by what he saw, several months later a small team from ITEC traveled back to Zimbabwe to be trained by Foundations for Farming. On this trip in June of 2018, we had three people receive farm training, but only one was a member of the ITEC team. Within several months after this training, these other two trainees, Dave and Matt, felt the Lord's calling to join the ITEC team.

Dave and Matt both had some basic agriculture knowledge but have worked diligently over the last year to continue to grow in that area. In early 2019, they started three test plots here at ITEC while also growing crops at their homes. In addition to the test plots, they have continued to improve their compost development while modifying the training curriculum from Foundations for Farming for a week-long course.

We are excited to report, after more than nine months of work, that we have just harvested our first batch of corn! Our team has worked a traditional plot and a conservation agriculture plot. The traditional plot included plowing, no mulch covering the soil, low standard of management, and inability to control weeds. The conservation plot used minimal soil disturbance (no plowing), mulch to retain moisture and

control weeds, high standard of management, and will add the practice of crop rotation. These two plots are the same size and had the same number of plants. The conservation farming will be the method taught by our Agriculture Team on a short-term training through ITEC.

The first picture is the two plots, side by side. The plot on the left is the traditional, while the one on the right is the conservation plot. The second picture shows the five best and five worst cobs of corn from the traditional (left) and conservation (right) plots. The third picture shows the total crop from the traditional (left) and conservation (right) plots. Both plots received the same seed, were planted/harvested on the same days, and received equal amounts of water. I hope these pictures excite you for the possibilities of equipping Christ-followers around the world with the capability of teaching these farming techniques along with open doors to share the Gospel.

While the team is still working on fine tuning the curriculum and continuing to learn from their results, we are happy to share that the first two

agriculture trainings are on the calendar. In early 2020, our team has trainings that will take place in two countries in Africa with existing ITEC partners. We are excited to see how these trainings will be used by these partners to open doors for sharing the Gospel.

The Great Commission is truly a call to all, not just traditional missions roles like medical professionals or pastors. God has a unique part for all His disciples to play in His plan. We continue to rejoice when God leads talented people to join the ITEC team, and it's humbling to see Him using all kinds of diverse people to develop, train, and equip both domestically and abroad. Many are called to support the Great Commission by giving and praying, but others are being drawn towards serving and filling specific needs with their God-given gifts. How has God uniquely gifted you? Maybe God is calling you to use the skills He has given you for His glory!



Upcoming Trips

Please join us in praying for these trips.

SEPTEMBER

- Central America- Sept 21 - 28
I-FILM
- Middle East - Sept 21 - Oct 2
I-DENT
- Southern Africa- Sept 26 - Oct 3
Conference

OCTOBER

- Haiti- Oct 19 -26
I-MED

NOVEMBER

- Central America- Nov 30 - Dec 9
I-MED, I-FIX, I-FILM

PLANNING STAGE

- Europe- Date TBD
Trauma Counseling, I-FILM
- East Africa- Spring 2020
I-DENT, I-FIX
- Southeast Asia - Summer 2020
I-FIX, I-MED
- Western Africa- Feb 2020
I-FARM, I-FIX
- Western Africa- March 2020
I-FARM
- East Africa - May 2020
I-DENT

56H Takes Flight

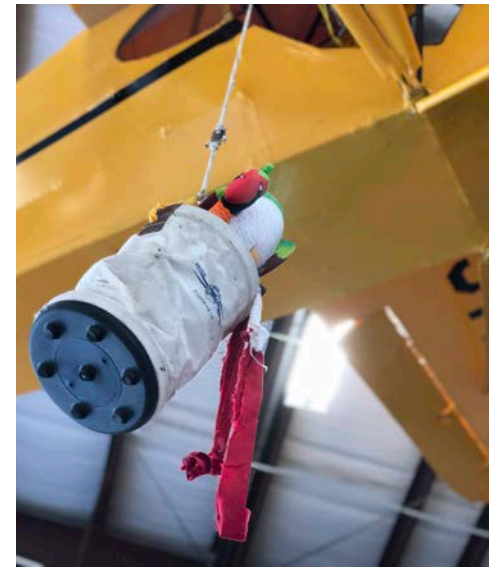
A Reminder of the Innovation and Sacrifice the PA-14 Has Come to Symbolize

Volunteers and members of our team have been working over the past few months to display a prop airplane used in the *End of the Spear* movie. This model of the PA-14 was not the airplane flying in the movie, it was the replica used on the beach in the movie during the spearing.

As you read last month, we have changed our logo and branding to reflect the three main areas of focus for ITEC: Develop, Train, and Equip. This change, however, doesn't mean that we are any less connected to or inspired by the story God began to write in 1956.

Featured on this model of the PA-14 is the "bucket drop" technique. This method was invented by Nate Saint as a means of trying to airdrop gifts to Waodani people who, at the time, had never had peaceful contact with the outside world. The bucket drop involved reeling out a basket loaded with gifts on the end of a line behind the plane. Then Nate would fly in a circle so the line becomes a spiral with the basket at the center of the circle, letting out more line to lower the bucket to the ground as he circled above.

We think this is a great reminder of our history and Nate Saint's innovation in missions. Now, every time we look up in our hanger, we are reminded about both the innovation and the sacrifice it may take to accomplish Christ's Commission.



Training Mechanics

On our recent trip to East Africa, a partner of ours shared a shocking revelation: In Swahili there is no parallel word for 'maintenance.'

ITEC's mechanical training aims to teach mature Christ-followers the concepts and principles of small engine repair and maintenance so they can use those skills to share their faith. Watch this new video sharing the heart behind the mechanical training from Steve, who has facilitated this training across the globe equipping believers with the necessary skills to open doors to the Gospel by training mechanics.



Visit <http://bit.ly/trainmechanics> or scan the code with your phone.

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