

5th Edition



THE GOOD TIMES

30 July, 2026

Alone we can go fast...

We are feeling deeply blessed in this season by the amazing people we have the privilege of walking with. God continues to connect us with special individuals and organisations who not only support us in our mission but also help us understand it more clearly.

One such organisation is Orizon Agriculture. I met the founder, Michael Lilje, three years ago at a Farmers Day, and we immediately connected around regenerative agriculture, people, and God - what we call our GPS: God, People, and Soil.

Orizon Agriculture helps farmers earn income from carbon credits by adopting earth-friendly farming practices. They handle the technical measurements, compliance requirements, and partnerships with major institutions such as Standard Bank. Their focus is on annual crop farmers who want to move towards regenerative practices, including no-till farming, cover cropping, organic inputs, improved livestock integration, and more. The benefits of regenerative agriculture go far beyond carbon credits. Orizon's heart is to help farmers work with nature, not against it, by improving soil health and reducing reliance on synthetic inputs. In this way, the carbon income becomes a valuable additional benefit alongside healthier soil and more sustainable farming.

We were incredibly fortunate that Orizon chose to sow their time and resources into Yenzokuhle by erecting a shade net over our vegetable garden. For three days, their team came and put in the hard work — serving practically, giving generously, and expecting nothing in return.

It reminded me of the old African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together."



Bible-Friendly Farming Practices

Genesis 2:15 — "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work it** and **take care** of it."

- The Hebrew words used here are 'abad (to serve/till) and shamar (to guard/keep). This implies a relationship of mutual service: humans serve the soil so that it can sustain life, reflecting the core regenerative goal of protecting living ecosystems.



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Did You Know?

Fascinating Carbon Facts

- **Universal Base:**

Carbon forms more unique chemical compounds than any other chemical element.

- **Massive Presence:**

Carbon is the fourth most abundant chemical element across the entire universe.

- **The Photosynthesis Pipeline:**

Plants pull carbon dioxide from the air via photosynthesis. When those plants die or pump sugars through their roots, that carbon gets locked into the soil as organic matter.

- **The Industrial Depletion:**

Traditional industrial farming (like heavy tilling and clearing native grasslands) exposes soil to oxygen, causing the stored carbon to turn back into CO₂ gas. Many agricultural soils have lost up to 50% of their original carbon.

- **The Regeneration Opportunity:**

Through practices like regenerative agriculture, cover cropping, and minimal tilling, we can actively use soil to suck carbon back out of the atmosphere. Experts estimate that improving global soil health could capture an additional 1 to 2 billion tonnes of CO₂ every year.

WHY is Soil Carbon so Important?

Carbon in the soil is the single most critical driver of soil health, agricultural productivity, and global climate regulation. It primarily exists as soil organic matter (SOM)—the decaying remains of plants, roots, and microbes. Without carbon, soil is merely lifeless rock dust that cannot hold water or sustain plant life.

1. It Acts as a Sponge for Water

- **Drought resistance.** Carbon-rich organic matter can hold up to 20 times its weight in water.
- **Runoff prevention.** High carbon levels create a porous soil structure that absorbs heavy rainfall.
- **Erosion control.** Soils packed with carbon resist being washed away by floods or blown away by high winds.

2. It Feeds the Soil Food Web

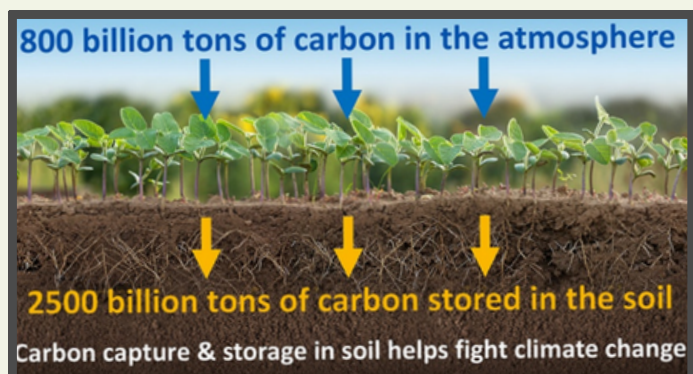
- **Microbial fuel.** Carbon is the primary food source for beneficial soil bacteria, fungi, and earthworms.
- **Nutrient cycling.** As microbes consume carbon, they unlock vital nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus for plants.
- **Natural defense.** A thriving microbial community naturally suppresses harmful soil-borne plant diseases and pests.

3. It Optimizes Plant Growth and Fertilization

- **Nutrient retention.** Soil carbon creates a high "Cation Exchange Capacity" (CEC), which acts like a magnet to hold nutrients.
- **Reduced fertilizer waste.** It prevents expensive fertilizers from leaching down into the groundwater.
- **Root penetration.** Carbon softens tight clays and glues loose sands together, making it easier for roots to grow deep.

4. It is a Massive Global Climate Buffer

- **Carbon sequestration.** Earth's soil holds more carbon than the atmosphere and all vegetation combined.
- **Emission reduction.** Keeping carbon trapped in the ground prevents it from turning into carbon dioxide (CO₂), a major greenhouse gas.
- **Climate resilience.** Healthy, carbon-dense farmlands adapt much better to unpredictable, extreme weather patterns.





Life Transformation

In the two weeks from Sunday 9 November to Friday 21 November 2025, we had 22 People from Tweelaagte in Northwest that joined us for what we now call the **Growing the Growers** training experience. They were equipped in the four F's: Faith, Family, Farming and Finances. 6 people were baptized on the 2nd last day!

This year from October 2nd until the 16th, we will have another training but with a totally new and different angle. We partnered with a few organizations that helped us create a very impactfull program for long - term development. We will again walk another two years alongside them to monitor, advice and encourage them to become self-sustainable. We realised that one organization alone will not make the difference, but and Eco-system of Partner Organizations can!

Our Impact in NorthWest



We are very grateful for every person playing even a seeming insignificant role in changing lives and transforming communities. When we had a discussion at the beginning of this year to find a solution for the growing number of communities in NorthWest that we need to service and support, **Maqhawe Mthembu** stepped up to the plate and agreed to move to the NorthWest province in a more permanent capacity. This saves us a lot of time and resources traveling up and down but also give us much more time with the people on the ground, on the farms. We trust God for someone else from that area to take over that role from Maq next year. We know that God has a plan for us in that area as more and more doors are opening and more opportunities are arising.

"Never underestimate the days of small beginnings..."

Zechariah 4:10



Our Impact in Gauteng



We are currently managing three projects in *Gauteng*: one in *Munsieville* and two in *Hammanskraal*. Together, these initiatives support more than 300 people. Our objective is to equip these groups to grow their own food while helping them establish markets to sell their surplus produce. To ensure long-term sustainability, we provide holistic training that covers seedling production, composting, organic liquid fertilizer brewing, bed construction, and general plant care. Our interns are doing a fantastic job transferring this knowledge to local communities. The residents truly enjoy working with them because they are energetic, relatable, and speak the local languages.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



Grow2Glow School Camp

22-24 May 2026



For a long time it had been our dream to bring Primary School learners to the farm. In the past we brought groups for our Young Farmers Fun Day experience, where they come for a couple of hours and have fun doing farms stuff but also learn something new in the process. This year our facilities was ready for a camp: We had the Lapa for meals and gatherings and also finished the obstacle course where they could climb and play and be challenged.

We want to start off the Grow2Glow year with a camp to get to know the class and also end it off with a camp. The rest of the year we go and do the agricultural lessons at the school where we also set up the gardens for them to grow produce for the school's feeding scheme.

WHAT IS NEW?

The Latest Developments

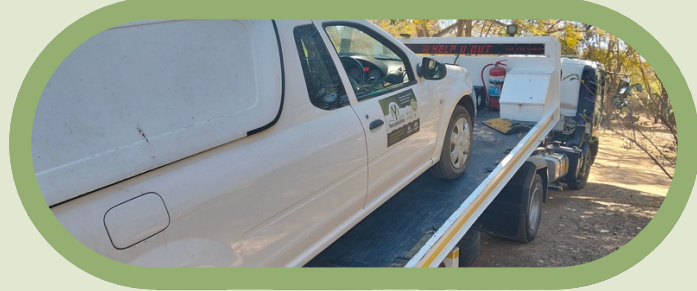
In the last 12 months so many things changed, and it seems that the pace of everything is increasing:

1. We built an **obstacle course** on Etz Chayim for the Grow2Glow kids.
2. We had our first **Grow2Glow camp** on the farm from 22-24 May!
3. We unfortunately had a lot of challenges with all our **vehicles** which really hampered our work.
4. We are in the process of establishing **offtake agreements** for maize with our farmers for next year!
5. Our pigs were moved to another farm, but in their place, we got 3 **cows** now! They are busy fertilizing our pasture ahead of the sheep and chickens as part of our Regenerative Agriculture model.
6. We completed the new ablution building for the ladies at our **Needles and Pines** camp site!
7. We received a shade net to protect our crops against frost and direct sunlight!
8. Our **Regen Internship Program** grew to 4 students!
9. We attended the **Food for Mzansi Regenerative Futures** Conference with our Interns.

What is Next?

The rest of 2026 promise to be even more busy than the first part of the year:

1. Northwest Farmers Visit: 11-13 August
2. Hammanskraal: Monthly Training Visits
3. Mission Expo Pretoria: 11-12 September
4. Growing the Growers Training: 2-16 October
5. Grow2Glow Camp: 7-8 November
6. ReGenesis Conference: 20-21 November



Get Involved

1

Volunteer

Join us on the ground.
We need hands, hearts,
and skills to serve
communities.

2

Donate

Your financial support
helps us equip and
empower people for
lasting change.

3

Partner

Organizations and
churches can partner
with us to multiply
impact together.



Contact Us

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Thank You

For Your Continued Support



Your generosity and partnership make everything we do possible.
Every seed planted, every life touched, and every community
transformed is a direct result of your support.

We look forward to continuing this journey together.

Banking Details

Account Name: Yenzokuhle Training & Development

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Reference: Your Name + Donation