



# NEW LIFE FOUNDATION



## Graduation 2015

Graduation day in October is always full of celebration. On the menu this year was chicken & chips, pilau, dance presentations and plenty of joy. It's our fifth year to see our Form four students graduating, 47 in total. Nine years on now we also have our Grade seven graduates, 18 students in 2015. Still there are firsts for us. Our first ever twins Gabriel and Michael Hawanga graduated Form four. Their father, Mr Dickson Hawanga, gave a wonderful speech at the ceremony as our parent representative. We have developed some popular traditions in our ceremonies. Once again the New Zealand Haka presented by the Form four boys, was a celebrated performance and the ribbon dance to worship music by the girls was amazing.





## Special Awards

As always every student received a certificate and we use this day to give out extra special awards for academic achievement. Worth mentioning are two of our top students for the year. Meshack Mwafifi from Kilimanjaro was awarded for being the best academic student and overall best in mathematics. We are so proud of Meshack - out of the 600 schools in the Tanzanian northern zone he recently ranked 6 overall in the zonal mock exams. We also congratulated Ruth Charles for her achievement as best overall girl in academics including mathematics. Our Form four students sat their final national exams in November and we thank God for our graduates and all they have achieved.

## A"maize"ing

"We've always done it this way, why are we changing?" This was the question asked by the Grade seven/Form four students as they prepared to help plant the 2015 maize crop. Getting the planting right is important; our maize crops provide our staple food for the year for our large NLF family. Mike Peens, Head of Department for Agriculture had a great learning opportunity for the surprised students. "I've loved working with the students who learnt a new way of planting. Instead of planting up and down the slope, which is commonly done here, we planted across the slope, it conserves water run off, and increases water penetration in the soil".

The proof was in the harvest as the students went back to visit the area they had planted. "This maize is so much better than our neighbour's" was the general exclamation.

There's more to the maize success story. Newly introduced on two thirds of our land was a hybrid variety of maize.





It's bigger and fatter, drought resistant and it produces two cobs to a plant. We've had a very low rainfall this year, our neighbour's have suffered, some barely reaching two bags of maize per acre. Our eight bags an acre have been a blessing. We thank God for His provision, planting advice from Mike and our new maize variety.



## Organic Veggie Mania

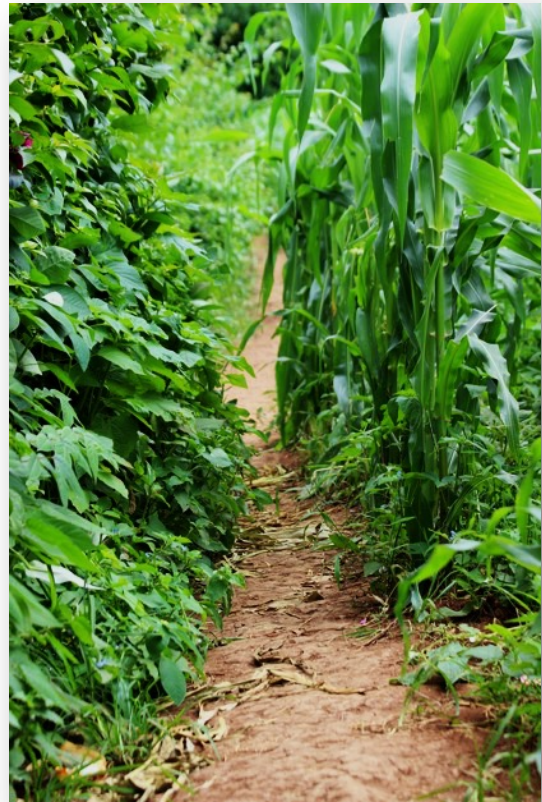
Veggie mania is about to hit NLF as we roll out our new organic vegetable growing agriculture project. Forty vegetable beds every two weeks will be planted on our 8.6 acre piece of land. The Ikyoung Juan Jungang Church in Korea donated our new multi purpose generator an essential tool for pumping the water from the borehole we completed in July. We are so thankful to the church and Miss Choi for her support. By the end of January, we'll have a continuous flow of vegetables, planting and harvesting year round. It's a great variety too: carrots, onions, tomatoes, green peppers, eggplant, cucumber, cabbages, covar, Chinese cabbage, lushoo, and kidney and green beans.

This new project has two main purposes. The first two weeks of harvesting for each vegetable bed will provide healthy vegetables for the students. The extra produce (about 3-5 weeks worth) will then be sold to generate finances to be used for other NLF agriculture projects. Looking down the track at the next three years we're excited. We'll have more agricultural projects, all organic and money generating. Current plans include egg and poultry production, pigs, fish ponds and more biomass crops for compost production and mulching.



## Agriculture Club

The new NLF Agriculture Club for secondary level will teach things like crop rotation and techniques such as growing beans in between plantings to eradicate disease, insect build up and improve nitrification of the soil. Mike Peens, HOD Agriculture recognises the importance of farming God's way and it's bigger than we imagine: "We want to create a passion amongst the students to love organic food and farming methods. Students will have a part to play in the vegetable growing process...we are influencing a big community here. " What's also exciting about this project is that as the neighbours see what we are doing they may even come to adopt the basics of organic farming and planting methods. This will improve their yields...less erosion, better water usage".



## New Life Conference 2015

The bi-annual New Life International Conference was held in July 2015. We welcomed the NLF representatives from Korea, New Zealand and the USA, local dignitaries and past NLF students. The overall theme of The Importance of Investing in the lives of Children was discussed and various aspects presented by the local and international delegates. Singing and dancing items were performed by the NLF students and the New Zealand Team.

It was a day of rejoicing and gratefulness for the abundant blessings God has given to New Life Foundation and of looking ahead to future challenges and opportunities.