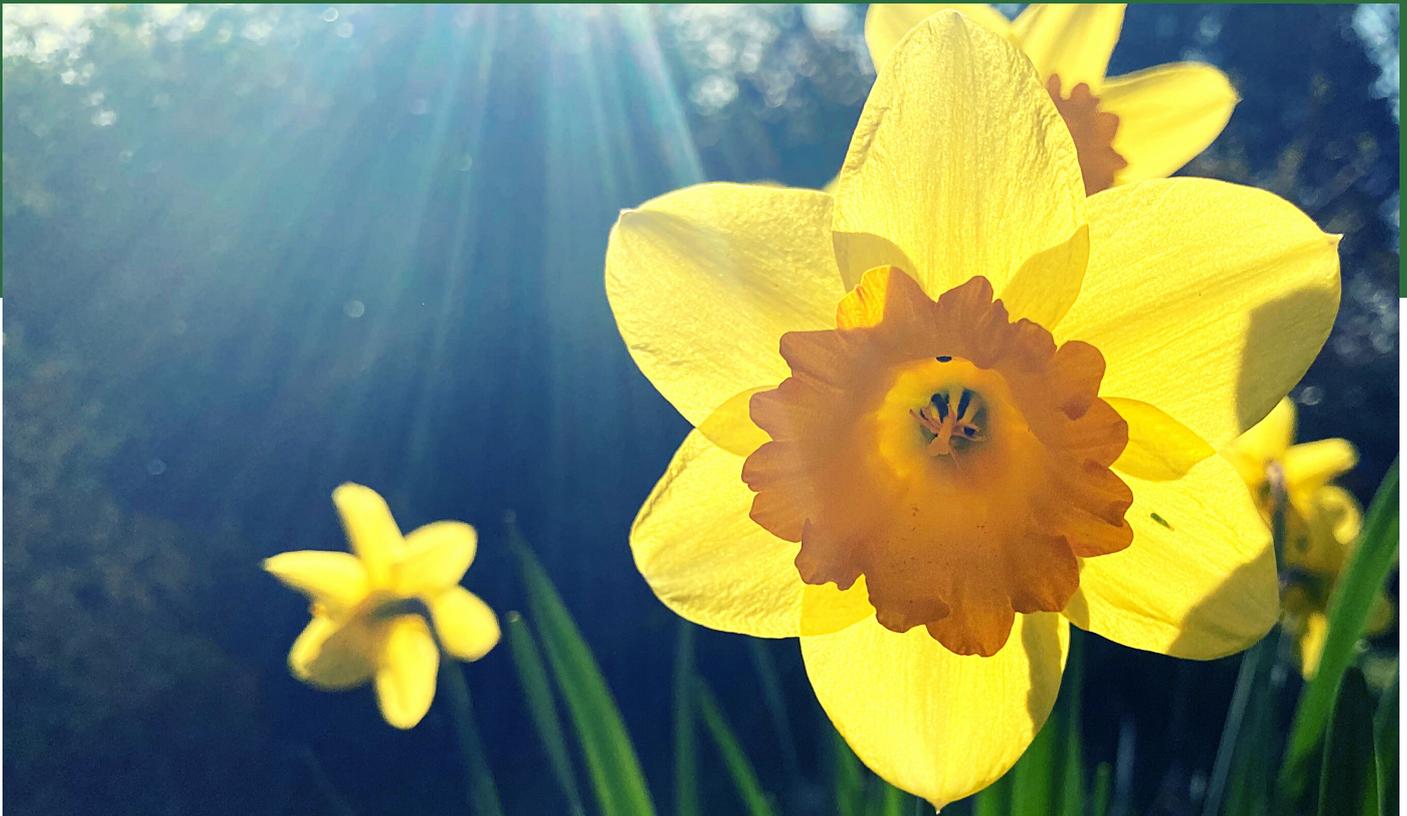


31 MARCH 2021



*“What does the Lord require of you?
To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” Micah 6 v 8*

EASTER LETTER FROM BEN FREETH



Dear Friends

I am always amazed at the multiplying power of a single seed. When nurtured in the right conditions, it can transform itself and yield so very mightily.

Such is the case with our open-pollinated seed crops and demonstration plots this year.

In fact, in one instance, one single maize plant, grown from just one single open-pollinated seed, has yielded five good cobs! Each cob has perhaps 200 or more kernels or seeds on it.

This is a multiplication that I believe to be truly miraculous. I have never before seen so many cobs on a single plant, or such a huge multiplication. A really good crop will normally only have two decent cobs per plant.





At Easter we remember the death of Jesus, and we celebrate His resurrection.

In the northern hemisphere, where I am currently, we are celebrating the return of spring. Daffodils have pushed their way up in a great rush from the cold, dark, winter earth. They now flower with their radiant faces of pure and glorious sunshine. They too are a symbol of resurrection.

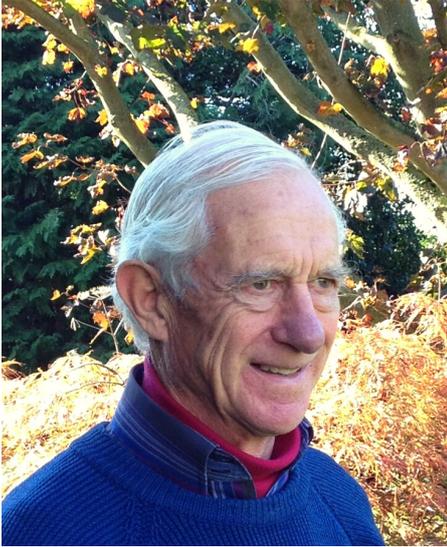
“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” John 12:24

Jesus was soon to be led off to his own death when he said this. He talked of a yield of “100 or 60 or 30 times what was sown.”

In the case of the single maize seed in Zimbabwe, we have recorded ten times those yields: 1,000 or 600 or 300. This is very exciting in what has become such a desperately poor, hungry and struggling nation. Our free starter packs of open-pollinated seed will once again be distributed around the country to help as many as 15,000 families who have become the poorest of the poor to feed themselves in the coming year - and beyond. This is double what we have given out in previous years!



What is also most heartening is that at the Foundations for Farming head office on the outskirts of Harare, our open-pollinated seed was planted next to some hybrid seed from a big multi-billion dollar Chinese-owned multi-national seed and chemical company. When they came to inspect their crop, they expressed great unhappiness as they said that our open-pollinated seed, grown with no chemical fertilizers, was showing up their improved quality hybrid seed!



ZACH FREETH

On the same theme, it is with a great sense of grief that I report the death of my father on 3 March. He was a founder trustee of the Mike Campbell Foundation and was totally committed to our projects and initiatives. His input was always invaluable and contributed to our successes.

It is sad; but it is also with great hope and even daffodilian joy that I report his passing. A week before he died, he said to me: "I am going home soon." I thought that he was confused, and explained to him that he was already at home. He said it again: "I am going home soon." He repeated it five times: "I am going home soon."

Those were his very last words. He went into shutdown after that and he took his last breath a week later. He is now truly at home.

The numerous letters, cards and calls that have come in attest to the great Easter hope with which he said those last words. He died saved, forgiven, redeemed. That is the true message and hope of Easter. For this glorious hope, I thank God.

We thank you most sincerely for all the support and will update you on other aspects of our work in due course. However, I thought it was important to leave you with this story of hope for the time being, and to particularly thank those who have been involved with conceptualizing, funding and working with our seed project from the beginning. It has not been an easy road but it is certainly bearing its fruit in a wonderful way!



May God of hope bless you this Easter

Ben

BEN FREETH

Executive Director

Mike Campbell Foundation

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PS: A thanksgiving service for my father's life will be held at a later date. Instead of flowers, any donations to the Mike Campbell Foundation would be most welcome.
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