Serving in His Love

One of the things that I enjoyed a lot in clinical settings in the States was client education. It’s satisfying to help the animal’s owner understand why it got sick (if known) and how to prevent future problems. Training community animal health workers (paravets) is a lot like client education. It has been a joy to watch some of the paravet trainees grasp and apply what we have been teaching them. Gabriel Magure is one of the paravet trainees who is really catching on, not just gaining knowledge, but actually applying what he has been taught.

Gabriel’s family joined the Food for His Children project in Bassodawich in Nov. 2013 and they got their first dairy goat, a hybrid. They were also given some seed for elephant grass, a grass that provides much needed protein for a goat’s diet. Prior to getting his goat Gabriel received training in dairy goat husbandry and conservation farming.

In 2016, Gabriel was selected by his peers to be trained as a paravet. The paravet training got off to a slow start because most of the trainees could not do the math to calculate a dose of medication. He is now one of the trainees who can calculate a dose correctly. The paravets are expected to set a good example for the rest of the village goat keepers. Even as recently as last year Gabriel would call and say he had a goat (or goats) that was (were) very sick. Could we come out right away? Every time we went to check on his goats, they were heavily infested with fleas and/or were coughing because of improper management. NOW his goats are flea-free and much healthier. It is thrilling to see Gabriel’s growing self-confidence and pride in his growing goat herd!

When Gabriel joined FFHC he was a follower of “traditional” religion; his wife was a Christian. In 2017, despite pressure from the elders who follow traditional religion, he became a Christian! He now attends church with his family. They pray morning and evening and at mealtimes. He shares with his family the Bible verses discussed in the paravet training sessions. They tithe from their harvest, regardless of the yield. Last year they got thirty-six bags of maize. But this year, due to the Army worm infestation and deficient rain he got only twelve bags of maize. Gabriel says the yield would have been even less if he had not used the farming techniques he learned through FFHC.
Now that Gabriel and Paulina are both Christians they have common priorities and the household is much more peaceful. He says he has learned that God is trustworthy and faithful. He is learning that peace comes from a life surrendered to God. What a valuable lesson to learn!

Thank you for making it possible for me to invest in Gabriel’s life! Please pray that

• more of the goat recipients will grow in their relationship to Christ

• more of the paravets and other goat recipients will begin to use the knowledge they have been given

• God will guide the ministry

Thank you for partnering with me so that I can continue to serve in His love here in TZ!

Margaret

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