

## GREEN HOUSE FARMING IN BISHESHE

My dear sisters, warm greetings from Bisheshe where we have rain and all is well by God's grace. I would like to briefly share a treasured memory of my time in Israel two years ago! Time flies, it's already two years since I was in the Holy Land!

As most of you have heard, I had a great experience through which I learnt many things in all aspects of life among which two statements are still guiding me;

Think out of the Box!

Find a way!



We arrived in September and it was summer. The place was dry, dusty and very hot! I thought I was back to Ghana! We were warmly welcomed by Agrostudies CEO and the Staff. In their welcome address and indeed throughout our stay in Israel they encouraged us to think out of the Box and to find a way!

We were later taken to our places of residence. We first settled in Sederot near Ashkelon and Beersheba and not far from Jerusalem. On the way as we travelled to Sederot, I kept asking myself what do these people survive on in this unproductive place? I was trying to compare Israel with my motherland Ankole, Uganda, the Pearl of Africa! At that time I couldn't find any comparison in relation to weather, topography, scenery etc. Not knowing that I was yet to discover that Israeli people produce everything out of nothing! They make use of everything. Nothing is wasted!

Arriving in Sederot, the people were friendly, welcoming and a bit curious! Life is expensive in Israel! Accommodation was one of the expensive things. We had to pay part of the accommodation cost from our allowances. I willingly chose to stay with the seven female students from Uganda to reduce on the costs and to save the money I would have had to spend on renting an individual room. We were given a three room apartment with one kitchen area and a bathroom. I was sharing a room with two ladies. One from West Nile-Arua and the other from the Northern part of the country-Gulu. To be sincere I had to adjust and go an extra mile! After putting my belongings into the room, I went to the nearest supermarket to buy what to cook! Feeding was our full responsibility. (I had to find a way!) Well, I found the way, I bought what was needed, cooked, ate and rested. We were a good and big community! Apart from my fellow Ugandan students I interacted, worked and studied with many other students of different nationalities. In a way, it was an international experience! In this community, I appreciated the formation I got from both my biological and DMJ families. This formation guided and encouraged me to help others.



The following day at six O' clock in the morning, the bus came to pick us and we were taken to various farms. One of

where they produce high quality standard cuttings for export. At this farm I realized how wrong I was to think that Israel was unproductive! The farm had over fifteen big and modern Green houses. Having worked with this farm, as well as in other farms, I learnt, understood and appreciated how important and productive Greenhouse farming is.

With Green house farming, one doesn't need to have a big fertile piece of land (as is the case in ordinary farming) and production is throughout the year regardless of harsh weather conditions and seasons.

Green House Farming is a solution to the effects of Global warming that has changed seasons. This has left people working so hard but ending up harvesting little or nothing leading to food insecurity.

It was here that I started dreaming of Greenhouse farming in Bisheshe. I wished, prayed, hoped and trusted that this dream would come



true if it was God's will. Time came in September 2019, the Greenhouse project started! Dream come true! This was made possible through our generous donors who funded the biggest part of the project. Nyumbani Care Limited constructed our Green house. We started preparing for the first season. In November 2019, we transplanted Sweet Pepper seedlings (yellow and Red) Varieties into the Green house. The plants grew vigorously and first harvest was at the end of January 2020! Well, the harvest went on for the following seven months! God blessed us with rich a harvest from a very small piece of land which was un productive! We were all happy and excited! We got more than we expected! Glory to God!

Harvesting, counting, sorting, grading, weighing and parking was always Hard work full of fun! All the

sisters and resident workers participated. The love, joy, co-operation and humor that animated us made the exercise less tiresome! I thank my community for this great support.

Our major clients are in Kampala and we used to send them the produce on public transport. This was very convenient. Selling our produce was very much affected by the Lock down imposed by the government due to Covid 19.





We have got new clients and we hope that the second season we will be much better than the first one.

I am very happy that many people especially our workers and students are learning and benefiting from this project. Some had heard of a greenhouse but never got a chance of seeing one. Students had been failing photograph interpretation of a greenhouse because they had never seen one. The teachers and students who have visited us are excited! People have learnt that there is an alternative way of farming which is more productive than the ordinary one.

I am very grateful to you for your prayers and support. Please keep up the spirit. We are preparing for the second season. Transplanting will be done in the second last week of this month of September 2020. We aim higher and hope for the best.



As earlier mentioned, I learnt a lot from this one year experience in Israel. I was impressed by the attitude of the Israeli people towards work, development, innovation and togetherness.

The Unity in the Kibbutz (communities) touched me. They do everything in common. These kibbutz have the biggest farms. They work and develop together without leaving anyone behind! No one is individualistic!



The people are very patriotic. Young and old alike! They work together to achieve a common goal!

They promote Innovativeness and encourage young people to be creative and innovative. They have made their own Paradise!

They work very hard with a purpose. The saying “Time is money” is very true here. They don’t waste time! Not even on Phones. They talk business—Toda, Yala, Tov Bye! (Thanks, hurry, good bye)

The major challenge I encountered was the political instability. The war between Israel and Gaza. We were not far from Gaza. I remember having sleepless nights in safe houses while rockets were flying over us. Whenever the warning alarm would sound, everyone had to stop and run for safety. This time was between life and death. I remember panicking during the first months! As time went by, I kind of got used to the whole

situation. Thanks be to God for the high technology the Israeli people have. Most of the bombs/rockets were intercepted!

Thanks to the Agrostudies staff who trained us on how to protect ourselves during those hard times. We were trained on the very first day we went to campus.

The Israeli security is tight and well trained! They do their work without threatening any one. The security Personnel are approachable unlike in some of our nations where the security personnel is brutal!

I can't express in words how happy and thrilled I felt while visiting Holy Places like Jerusalem-Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre church, Wailing wall, Bethlehem, Nazareth- Annunciation Basilica, Mary's well, Cana, Tiberias, Capernaum, Bethany-Lazarus' tomb, Jericho, Sea of Galilee, Red sea, Dead sea, river Jordan, Jaffa, Samaria, Shechem-Jacob's well among many other Holy places.

My faith has been strengthened. My Faith has grown. I feel humbled at the same time blessed to have had this rare opportunity! I wish and pray that many of our sisters would get a chance to visit the Holy land.

I can't forget to mention and pray for the Incarnate Word sisters Tel Aviv community. These sisters opened their doors and were very hospitable to me. They made me feel at home! I have good memories of the time we spent together. I will forever be grateful.

United in prayer,  
Alice Kyasiimire.

