

# Trinity church launches You Feed Them outreach project

by Sally Gray

OSGOODE — Congregation members at Trinity Bible Church of Ottawa, south of the village of Osgoode, turned the sod to mark the beginning of a new project to help feed a village in Kenya.

More than 20 people helped dig the 1,200-square-foot strip of garden by hand on Sat., Oct. 4, to demonstrate the hard labour involved in producing food in Kenya. The garden strip is the first of many to follow.

Project leader and agriculturalist Roland Poirier said this project is breaking ground in many ways.

"I don't know of another project like it," he explained. "We are hoping to see it duplicated many times over, and we are willing to share our expertise."

The project, named You Feed Them, is spearheaded

by Trinity Bible Church of Ottawa, a country church on Stagecoach Road south of Dalmeny Road, situated on 106 acres of land.

Church members, including Poirier and his wife Theresa, were moved by the plight of the hungry in the world and saw potential for some of the land at Trinity. They wanted to use it to feed those in need. Then they met Silas Owiti Oduor.

Oduor is a microbiologist now living and working in Ottawa with his Canadian wife, Kimberley. The couple eventually hopes to return to Kenya.

"The people were not able to work the land in 2007 due to the tribal unrest during my country's election," Oduor said, describing the problems of his village. "Field workers would have been killed by marauding tribes. Then during the rainy season in

2008 the region experienced a draught. The area of Kenya that has been known as the food basket is now unproductive, and the people have no money to buy food from the neighbouring country of Uganda."

To help meet the immediate needs of the village, individuals have sent money to build a kitchen for the school, buy books, and lunch and breakfast for students this school year.

The longer term project involves growing organic food to sell locally to raise money. The community gardens will also produce grains that will be used in food bars produced here in Canada.

The village of Alego also struggles with water-quality issues. Water in the area is so polluted that it cannot be used to irrigate the land. You Feed Them will raise money to help clean the water.

"One of the ways we're breaking new ground is the discovery of organic biotechnology we call subterranean probiotic inoculation," Poirier explained. "Simply put, putting friendly bacteria (a type of super yogurt) back in the soil, by

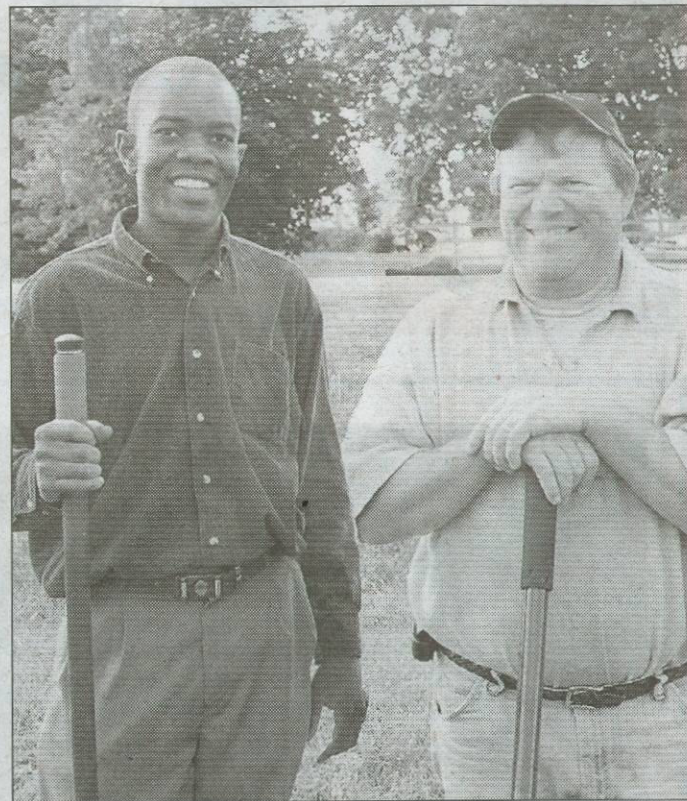
bringing essential life with the water. This recent organic biotech breakthrough has proven to increase productivity and nutritional value of harvest grown in treated soil."

In November, a team from the church and community will visit Alego. One of their objectives is to treat the village water source with the super yogurt; a treatment Poirier anticipates will clear the pollution, though it will need to be repeated on occasion throughout the year.

A third aspect of the You Feed Them project is raising beef cattle organically on the church property. One plan is to make beef jerky to send to Alego; another is to sell the beef locally to raise money.

There are many parts of the project still to work out, but Poirier is confident that they will be successful. "God is leading this project," he said.

Information on current business partners and sponsors who support the project are listed on the website [www.youfeedthem.com](http://www.youfeedthem.com).



Silas Owiti Oduor (left) and project leader Roland Poirier are part of a group of 20 who turned the soil for a new market garden at Trinity Bible Church in Osgoode — the first initiative in the church's You Feed Them international outreach project.



Project leader Roland Poirier (left) of Trinity Bible Church and Madj El-Samrouit helped dig the 65-foot strip of market garden at Trinity Bible Church, south of Osgoode.