



June 2023

This was the dismaying sight that met us as we headed to the farm for land prep for our Year 3 planting! A spate of excavators dotting the land, and huge pits for illegal coal mining pockmarking the community. With the lure of quick money, whole families—from toddlers to the elderly—are working 24/7 in the mines. Schools are closed, streams are polluted, health and safety risks are ignored, and the land is degraded in ways that will take decades to recover.

One of the core principles of conservation agriculture, learned during our recent training in Zimbabwe, is **minimal soil disturbance**. Due to poor farming practices, Nigeria (and Africa as a whole) is losing much of its arable land to erosion, which leads to flooding and food insecurity and makes communities more susceptible to the effects of climate change. Seeing this type of **maximum soil disturbance** was heartbreaking.

We are more committed than ever now to teaching people how to provide for their families AND make a profit on just a small portion of land, all while engaging in sustainable activities that reclaim and redeem the land rather than degrade and destroy both the land and their futures. As we seek to break the cycle of poverty, our ultimate prayer is that as we share the Gospel through the teaching of farming God's way, hearts and lives will be redeemed and reconciled to Him.

from **Faith's Heart**



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”
~Jeremiah 29:11



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