

Jan 2018



TO WITNESS THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE STREET CHILDREN OF IRINGA BY STRIVING TO MEET THEIR NEEDS THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE LIFE IN ALL ITS GOODNESS



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Welcome to the Winter edition of FISCH Food!

Greetings Friends of FISCH, and a Happy New Year to you! We hope you have had a good festive season despite the long gloomy nights. We have the Christmas and New Year activity updates from FISCH Iringa to share with you, plus other news and announcements including an update on the new Drop-in-Centre and the newly formed Breakfast Club. Please read on for lots more info!

We hope you enjoy what we have to share with you, and we would love you to feel free to share this newsletter with any friends who are interested in what God is doing at FISCH. Thank you again for your support!



Christmas & New Year in Iringa, Tanzania

Each year at Christmas the Team put on a Christmas meal for all the Children, share worship together and give gifts. This year we had 79 Children attend and Pastor Stephano gave a talk from Luke 2:10, explaining why Jesus was born. The Kids really enjoyed the worship together, and also sharing a meal of rice, meat, beans and fruit. The gifts given out included clothing and shoes.

A few days later FISCH Kids and staff celebrated New Year together. 98 Children were in attendance and again a meal was provided, along with a teaching from Pastor Stephano from Isaiah 53:3-7. After this, the Team hired a bus and took the Children to see the Isimila Stone Age Site, 21km from Iringa. In the 1950s archeologists unearthed some significant Stone Age findings, with tools on the site (such as hammerstones, axeheads, flints and scrapers) estimated to be between 60 and 100 thousand years old. A museum here explains the findings and the Children very much enjoyed their tour and juices.



Left & Above: the Team and Kids sharing meals
Right: the Kids showing off their presents!





A Christmas Gift from the UK



This year a Friend of FISCH decided that she would forgo Christmas presents and instead ask friends and family to make a donation to FISCH. Sylvia, from the UK, felt called to do Christmas a bit differently this year and so instead of spending money on buying friends and family gifts, or receiving any herself, she gifted all the money that would have been spent to FISCH instead, knowing how far it could go. Between her and her friends and family, she donated enough money to finance the Christmas and New Year activities and meals for the Team and Children that you have read about above.

The FISCH Teams in the UK and Iringa would like to acknowledge Sylvia for her generous donation, and to thank her for all her support of FISCH. Thanks, Sylvia!



Breakfast Club Update

In the Autumn Bites 2018 edition we introduced the **new Breakfast Club**. Since August the Team in Iringa have started providing a breakfast of **chai** (tea) and **mandazi** (a savoury fried bread, also known as the Swahili bun) each morning for the Kids (mainly boys) who are still currently sleeping rough on the streets. This has enabled the Team to provide **nutritional sustenance** to these Kids daily and to help bring them into regular contact with them at the Drop-in-Centre and build relationships. The Kids are also able to use the **washing and cleaning facilities**, receive **counselling** and generally start to get involved with positive activities at FISCH.

Above you can see some photos of the lads enjoying their breakfast. It is after all the most important meal of the day! The Breakfast Club costs around TSH10,000 (£4) per day to run. If you are interested in sponsoring the Club, please contact Rich on rich@gofisch.org.



Farewell, Maraji



We are very sad to say **goodbye to Maraji** who has finished working at FISCH and moved back to his home town. He was very much a part of the **FISCH family**, and well loved by the kids and staff. We thank Maraji for the time he spent working with us, and in particular for the **passion he brought to teaching** at the Learning Centre, and **leading the worship and bible studies** during the week and at FISCH Church. We wish you every success with your next adventure.





Eva & Neema Update

You may recall **Eva** and **Neema**, two FISCH Kids who '**graduated**' from the **FISCH Sewing Club** a year ago. FISCH helped them set up their own business in town, and in the Autumn 2017 Bites we shared how **their business was doing really well**, and so was their confidence!

On the most recent Trip out to Iringa some Friends of FISCH were so impressed by Eva and Neema's story, their business and of course their products, that an order was put in immediately for **fifty handmade African-pattern aprons!** The aprons are **strong and tough, washable** and are also **adjustable**. Eva and Neema worked hard sourcing the beautiful fabrics and produced the required number, before **arranging delivery to the UK**. The aprons were enthusiastically received in the UK, with many being given as Christmas presents, and many being sold to further raise funds for FISCH.

We are so thrilled with Eva and Neema's success. With a helping hand from FISCH and diligent teaching from Elimina at the sewing club, they have **grown from FISCH Kids into FISCH Graduates**, running their own business and managing their lives, sustaining themselves and of course being everyday **inspiration** to those other Kids at FISCH.

If you give a woman a fish, she eats for a day, but give her a fishing rod and show her how to use it... well, you know the rest!!

Below: Team Leader Pastor Stephano showing the beautiful aprons for the camera



Remembering Noeli

Since On 29th Jan, we grieved the loss of **Noeli**, a young boy who had suffered with illness for a number of years. Both his parents had passed away, and he lived with his grandmother. FISCH had supported him for a long time with **special food parcels** to meet his nutritional needs. It is sad that he had to endure so much during his short life, but we **thank God** for the opportunity to have relieved some of that hardship during the past few years, and for the honour that the Teams have had in witnessing the love of Christ to him. Please pray for his **grandmother**, and all at FISCH who were close to him.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away – Rev 21:4

Left: Noeli and his grandmother collecting their food parcel from the Drop-in-Centre



Food Parcel Sponsorship Scheme Update



Since introducing the Food Parcel Sponsorship Scheme nearly a year ago we now have several FISCH Kids who receive a food package regularly. This package consists of **10kg of maize flour, 5kg of beans and 1 litre of oil**. By providing a regular source of food for FISCH Kids and their families, we hope to release the Children from having to work to put food on the table, meaning they can **go to school** and continue with their education. Below you can see some of the Kids, their parents or grandparents collecting their Food Packages. If you are interested in joining the Food Parcel Sponsorship Scheme, please contact Sarah and Roy Maguire at sarah@onething.org.uk.



TSS Awareness Partnership - Crazy Fundraising Schemes

Regular readers of the FISCH Bites are probably familiar with **Mandy and the TSS Aware crew** (tssaware.org.uk) and their partnership with FISCH. Mandy's daughter **Natasha Scott-Falber** tragically passed away from **Toxic Shock Syndrome** (TSS) a few years ago. Since then Natasha's mum and family have been raising awareness about this **preventable** disease by encouraging recognition of the symptoms – **vomiting, diarrhoea, dizziness, fevers, fainting and aches** (please see the website for more information).

However Natasha's family wanted her to have a **positive legacy** in the world, particularly one that represented Natasha's love of the children in Uganda that she worked with. Hence, TSS Aware have **partnered with FISCH** and have raised the funds to purchase a plot of land in Iringa. We are now in the **first stage of development**, and Mandy and the TSS Aware crew have been hard at work with whacky fundraising schemes, including **November's "Pound a Mile" campaign**, where they aimed to raise a pound for every mile on an imaginary journey from Heathrow to Iringa – that's **7920** miles! Mandy herself walked 6 miles (12,000 steps) every day, as recorded by her Fitbit, and on a dreary day in November she and her co-workers at Marlow Vets in Chepstow did a **sponsored "Onesie Walk"** across the Old Severn Bridge and back – over **8 miles** in chilly winds dressed as various animals!!



Continued...



... TSS Awareness Partnership - Crazy Fundraising Schemes ... continued...

If you thought that was bad enough, Mandy and other families affected by Toxic Shock Syndrome are abseiling down all **400 feet** of the **tallest permanent abseil tower in the world**, the National Abseil Centre in Northampton, on **National TSS Aware Day**, which is the date of Natasha's 20th birthday. To sponsor them and to find out more, please check out tssaware.org.uk orgofisch.org/get-involved/drop-in-centre-building-fund/. Mandy – we salute you!



The New Drop-in-Centre Progress Report

The **next phase** of developing the new Drop-in-Centre began in November and now **the roof is off!** It was in a state of disrepair and so has been **completely removed** and a new roof will be built on soon.

Several walls have also been knocked down and rebuilt for the same reason. The photo on the top left shows the front of the building as it was last summer when Mandy (of tssaware.org, see above) visited. The photo on the bottom left is how it looks currently. The photo on the right is of the work going into preparing the new roof. **We'll keep you posted!**



Education Update



In Tanzania **education is free for primary school** children although families must **provide school supplies** such as stationary, exercise books, uniform and shoes. A few years ago the Tanzanian government made **all government secondary schools** free as well, although these still have their **hidden costs**. If a child misses their chance to go to a government-run secondary school then the only way is through private schools, which are more expensive due to education and hostel fees.

FISCH encourages all Kids to go to school where possible and to work hard to further their education. In Iringa it is seen as a **privilege** to go to school and consequently many Children are keen to get a good education, but there are various reasons why a FISCH Kid may not be able to go – for instance, **school fees** cannot be paid, school supplies or uniforms are **lacking**, or simply because the **Kids are needed to work** to provide income for a poor family.

Each term FISCH strives to support as many Children as possible in their education by **covering school fees, providing school supplies and clothing**, or even by providing **Food Parcels** to a family to free up a Child from having to work to earn money instead of going to class. Below are a few stories from some of the FISCH Kids we support in this way.

Johari - Johari is 15 years old and has been registered with FISCH since Nov '09, aged 6. She lives with her grandmother in the Mtwivira area as sadly both her parents died from HIV. Her grandmother works as a labourer and has been unable to finance Johari's education. FISCH supported Johari in Primary School and she has done well so far, despite poor health herself. She is in her third year of studies (Form Three) and hopes one day to be a nurse in order to help those who are suffering from diseases, like that which killed her parents.

Vivian - Vivian has been registered with FISCH since Oct '09 and is 17 years old. She lives with her mother and rest of her large family in Iringa. Being part of a big family means a lot of cost with regards to education, and so Vivian approached FISCH for help. FISCH has supported Vivian since Primary School and she is now in her final year of her studies, Form Four. We are pleased to share that she is doing very well and her ambition is to one day become a teacher.

Afidhi - Afidhi is an orphan who lives with his grandmother in the Kijiweni district of Iringa, and has been registered with FISCH since May '15. His grandmother works as a farm labourer to support the family with a low income. Because of this Afidhi and his family receive a Food Parcel regularly from FISCH to help make life easier. Afidhi finished Standard Seven (last year of Primary education) and is now in Form One at Isef Secondary School.

Want to know more or get involved?

FISCH exists by **prayer** and was started in **response to God calling people to make a difference** to the lives of the Kids of Iringa who live on the streets, in the name of **Christ Jesus**.

If you would like to know more about FISCH, get involved or support us financially, please check out gofisch.org or email rich@gofisch.org. **We'd love to hear from you!**



I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full – John 10:10

