

Oct 2017



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

## Welcome to the Autumn edition of FISCH Food!



The seasons are changing and the dark nights are setting in earlier in the UK. In contrast to this the daylight hours in Tanzania remain the same throughout the year. The nights are just as long too, and surprisingly cold, despite Tanzania's close proximity to the equator, so we are always trying to do more to help the Children of Iringa off the streets and back into families. Please read on to find out more about the new Breakfast Club and Short-Term Accommodation the Team in Iringa are running.

We hope you have a pleasant autumn, a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year!

## Sewing Club - UPDATE

Each month the Team perform around **40-50 follow-up visits** to FISCH Children each month. This is where they travel to a Child's home, or school, or meet up with them on the street, to provide **counselling** and **support** and to update our records on their situations. With each visit there is a **hope and expectation that FISCH will be able to help** in some way.



This is where the Sewing Club can step in.



One small way that we think FISCH could do this is to **utilise the FISCH Sewing Club** to make important items such as **clothes, school uniform, bags**, etc, and to distribute them during the follow-up visits as appropriate. This would not only be of benefit to the Children receiving the gifts, but also provide useful **practice and training** to Kids at the Sewing Club, and of course fosters wonderful team spirit and unity. We are seeking regular funding to enable this to begin soon. We estimate it will cost approximately £40 a month to purchase the materials for this. Watch this space!





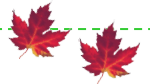
## A Further Helping Hand

Many of the Children who come to FISCH are already living on the streets and FISCH would like to do more to help these vulnerable Kids. To address this, the Team in Iringa have started a Breakfast Club, and are looking to offer Short-Term Accommodation. Please read on below...



### Breakfast Club

We have all heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, to provide energy for the work ahead, but also to alleviate those horrid feelings of hunger pangs. There are approximately 20-30 of our Kids (mainly boys) who still sleep on the streets of Iringa at night, and it was decided that the Team would provide a basic breakfast of **Chai** (tea) and **Mandazi** (a savoury fried bread, also known as a Swahili bun). The cost of this is about 10,000 TSH a day (about £4). After this decision was made, it was begun immediately, starting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August. The purpose of this Breakfast Club is not only to **provide basic sustenance** to these Kids daily, but also to bring them into regular contact with our FISCH Team at the Drop-in-Centre, where they are encouraged to make use of the washing and cleaning facilities, receive counselling and guidance, and of course get involved with other FISCH activities.



### Short Term Accommodation

This is something that FISCH has offered in the past with the Halfway House, but this had to finish due to lack of funding. We are still offering short term accommodation for a small number of children at the home of our Iringa Team Leader Stephano with his family, but we would like to open up the option of safe lodgings for more children. One of the rooms at the Drop-in-Centre has been set up with **bunk beds for six children**. The plan is that Kids would be offered **shelter** in this room, and during their stay with us, they would be encouraged to participate in FISCH activities, for instance, the Sewing Club, biweekly Bible seminars, Homework Help Club, Sunday FISCH Church and of course, FISCH Utd Football Team! Whilst living at the Drop-in-Centre, these Children would receive greater focus from the Team as they provide counselling and guidance. The ultimate aim is supporting these Children as they move back into living with relatives or guardians. Since returning from the 2017 visit, funding has been obtained for mattresses, bunk beds, mosquito nets and pillows for this room, so we are hoping to offer this valuable resource to our most desperate Kids.

Please watch this space for news and future updates regarding the Breakfast Club and Short Term Accommodation.

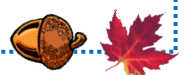
*Gathering together at the breakfast club with tea and mandazi*



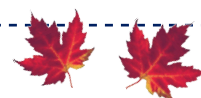
## From Sewing Machines to Carpentry...

We have been so encouraged by the success of the Sewing Club over the past year and how it has enabled our two friends **Eva and Neema** to become self-employed and self-sufficient. This has given us the confidence to start planning a **Carpentry Club** using the same model, with the hope of training and supporting young adults to **learn a skill, build their confidence** and to become **self-employed and self-sufficient** in time. Whilst the young men are learning it offers an excellent chance for the FISCH Team to minister to them, and for them to encourage each other and build relationships. Of course in the long run FISCH may need to employ their services, and so they would be able to bless us in return!

Our intention is to **set up a Carpentry Club** on site at the Drop-in-Centre and we are **praying** for funds to enable this to happen.



## Eva & Neema – 6 months later...



Do you recall our two friends **Eva** and **Neema** from the 2017 Spring FISCH Food Edition? After working hard at the Sewing Club and 'graduating' together, they set up a small business in town, with the help of FISCH and some kind donations from supporters in the UK.

Well, we are thrilled to share that Eva and Neema's business is doing really well! You only need to look at the recent photo of them to see this – they are beaming with pride as they proudly showed the UK Team visitors to their shop where they are successfully working as self-employed tailors. We are delighted that these two friends started out as FISCH Kids with no skills and are now making their own way in the world, and it just goes to show what can be achieved! These girls are **an inspiration** to other FISCH Kids who are learning in the Sewing Club and we couldn't be more proud of them.

*Below; Eva & Neema six months ago*

*Right: Eva & Neema proudly posing for a picture in their business*



## TSS Aware Team Trip 2017



You may recall from previous editions of the FISCH Food that FISCH has partnered with a charity in the UK called **TSS Aware**. This charity was created to raise awareness about **Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS)** after the tragic death of **Natasha Scott-Falber**. Her family were determined that other people should not lose their lives to this treatable disease, and so they set about raising awareness of the cause and symptoms of TSS - TSS is caused by **bacteria** entering the body and releasing toxins, and **symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, high temperatures, fainting, aches and dizziness** (for more information, check out [tssaware.org.uk](http://tssaware.org.uk)). Natasha's family were also determined to create a positive legacy for their wonderful, kind and beautiful Natasha, and so they decided that they would partner with FISCH Ministries and help build the new **permanent Drop-in-Centre** in Iringa, Tanzania.

Here we catch up with **Mandy**, Natasha's mother, to hear about her experience visiting the Project with her husband Mike (Natasha's stepfather), the Team, the Kids, and of course, the plot of land on which the new Drop-in-Centre is to be built...





*What was your reason for going out to and visiting FISCH in Iringa?*

The main reason we wanted to go to Iringa to visit the FISCH project was because we wanted to connect with everyone involved in the Charity. We have spent a lot of time raising money for Natasha's Drop-in-Centre at FISCH but we had a real desire to meet the children and find out just how important FISCH is to them and how they are being helped by the Project.

*What were you looking forward to most in Tanzania?*



We were looking forward to being in Africa again. We had been to Uganda twice and knew what a special place Africa is. We had also only seen photos of the plot of land and building that had been bought and were very excited to actually stand on the land and touch the property.

*What activity, resource of ministry at FISCH had the biggest impact on you in Iringa?*

By far the thing that had the biggest impact on us was hearing the stories of the Children that have been helped by FISCH and how FISCH's ministry and resources had turned their lives around

The most amazing story being that of Eva who came to FISCH in 2009 from the streets. She learned how to sew and make clothes at FISCH and now, supported by FISCH, has her own business making and selling clothes for people. From this business she is able to not only support herself but her young son as well.

*Do you have any special moments with any of the Team or Kids?*

We had an amazing time with the FISCH Choir. We taught them to sing and sign to 'Wonderful Lord' -the song that Natasha taught to the children in Uganda. They also learnt the Peruvian Gloria.

The most exciting time for us with the Choir though was when they taught us a song about healing and insisted that we learn the dance movements as well to perform in church the following Sunday.

The love of God and His Joy touched every one of us that afternoon but especially Mike and I. Walking home from the rehearsal we felt truly blessed and also a little bit exhausted!!

*What was your favourite activity?*



Our favourite activity was just spending time with the Children and being in their company. It's amazing how much you can enjoy people's company even when you don't speak the same language. We laughed and laughed listening to the excited screams and squeals coming from the younger children as we blew bubbles for them. Again we had a great time playing with the beachball that ended up stuck in the rafters. The only way to get it down involved a young man standing on Mike's shoulders and lots of laughter.

We also had many wonderful conversations with the older Children who could speak a bit of English and were happy to share their stories with us.

Everyone had their own tragic story but each one now had hope for the future because of FISCH.

*What have you learnt from the Team or Children at FISCH? Do you think about things differently since being at FISCH?*

I think the thing that we learnt most from the FISCH Team was love and dedication. They absolutely love every Child who comes to them and work tirelessly to do as much as they can to improve their lives.

Since coming home from Tanzania I am constantly reminded about two things that were said while we at FISCH... (continued overleaf)



The first is 'do the little things' and the second is making a difference one step at a time.

FISCH is a small charity and Tanzania has a big problem with street children but FISCH is making a difference one Child at a time and the difference that they are making is massive to each individual. Over time the individuals add up (84 children to lunch the last Saturday we were there) and after 10 years FISCH has made a massive difference to lots of Children.

*What is your fondest memory?*

Fondest memory? Being at FISCH church. Worshipping, praying and sharing in Tanzania was one of the most special experiences I have ever had. God's Holy Spirit was right in the midst of the service.

*Where are you going on from here with FISCH?*

We are working hard to fundraise the rest of the money so that we can complete the first phase of the Drop-in-Centre. We had our first Tanzanian evening at the church that Mike works in, last Sunday night. We showed videos and photos of our time in Tanzania, we fed them with fantastic Tanzanian food and we taught them the song that FISCH choir taught us (including dance moves!!) It really was a wonderful evening and people gave generously for the Charity as they left. We will be doing many more Tanzanian evenings between now and Christmas.

Other than that we are desperately saving our money so that we can get back as quickly as possible. We really hope to visit again next year and take our son Daniel, his girlfriend Brianna and my mum Jean with us. We just can't wait to get back.

*What does FISCH mean to you as a family?*

It's hard to put into words what FISCH means to us as a family.

When Natasha died we were absolutely devastated and lost and really didn't know how we could face the future without her. We were such a close family of four and without Tash we were like a table with one leg missing and nothing felt right any more.

As a family we set up TSS aware (Tash died of toxic shock syndrome the first time she used a tampon), to raise awareness of the symptoms of TSS in the hope that no more beautiful girls would die from it.

The charity has been and continues to be very successful and we are proud of the difference that we have made.

The problem was we didn't really want people to remember Tash as the poor teenager that died from Toxic Shock Syndrome. We wanted them to remember her for the amazing, kind, funny, talented, beautiful young woman that she was. While we were looking for something positive to do in Tash's memory God sent Paige [of the UK FISCH Team] to work with me 'and the rest is history'.

Natasha loved her time in Uganda with the family and spent most of her time with her granny looking after young children and babies while the rest of us were building. She absolutely adored the children and at the age of 11 was never happier than when she was pushing a two-year-old on a swing, tickling a three-year-old and helping to feed a one-year-old all at the same time. She was an absolute natural with children and they would all just follow wherever she went.

This is why we chose to work with FISCH.

Tash would have loved to be involved in this project. When we were in Tanzania I really felt that she was there with us and I know that, had she still been here, she would have been completely committed to this project.

So what does this mean to us as a family?

It means that we can work together in something that we can all enjoy. It means we can feel closer to Tash and most important of all it means that through FISCH and in Tash's memory hundreds and hopefully thousands of children will have hope for the future.



*What do you think Natasha would have to say about FISCH and your partnership?*

I think Natasha would say 'great choice!'

As I have already said Natasha would love to have been part of this project. It brings together all the things that she loved.

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Mandy and the Team at TSS Aware are continuing to raise funds towards the first phase of building the new Drop-in-Centre. They are organising a "Pound a Mile" campaign in November, where they are aiming to raise a pound for every mile on an imaginary journey from Heathrow to Iringa – that's 7920 miles!! The Team has lots of suggestions as to how you could earn these miles which can be found on [www.tssaware.org.uk](http://www.tssaware.org.uk). Alternatively if you would choose to purchase 10 miles or more from the comfort of your armchair, you will receive a card and a Tanzanian bracelet for Christmas.



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

[www.gofisch.org](http://www.gofisch.org)  
[office@gofisch.org](mailto:office@gofisch.org)

### **Wanting to Support FISCH but not sure how?**

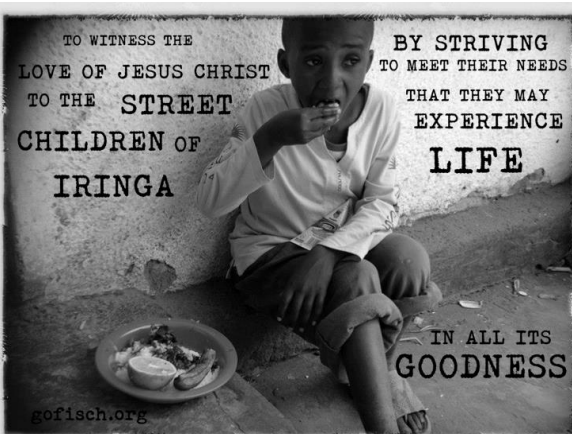
If you would like to stand alongside FISCH, the greatest support you could give us is your prayers.

FISCH always has been and always will be God's project. He has provided for FISCH, the Teams, and the Kids, and we stand in faith that God will continue His good work in Iringa.

We appreciate any financial support, be it a big or small, a one-off gift, monthly donations or somewhere in between. All monies are gratefully received and all find their way to FISCH in Iringa. If you wish for your donation to be allocated to a specific project, for instance, the Sewing Club, or would like to volunteer regular funding to help set up the Carpentry Club, then that can certainly be arranged.

We want you, our Friends of FISCH, to share in our passion for our mission: to witness the love of Christ Jesus to the Street Children of Iringa, by striving to meet their needs, that they may experience life in all its goodness.

If you would like to donate, or find ways that you can get involved with fundraising, find out more about mission trips to Iringa or even just ask any questions, please contact Rich on [rich@gofisch.org](mailto:rich@gofisch.org). We are always happy to talk about FISCH!



**LET THERE BE MORE BIG PRAYERS**

