

FISCH food



the Future for Iringa Street Children monthly news bulletin

“ Welcome to the first edition of FISCH food! ”

It is a great privilege to be writing the opening paragraph of the brand new monthly news bulletin for such an incredible charity as FISCH. Such a young venture with huge ambition, a project that has literally thousands of miles between the UK team and the front line workers in Iringa, Tanzania. I look forward to the challenges that those miles will bring to editing together each edition of this news bulletin but I hope that we can, to some extent, bring the work of FISCH a little closer to home.

{ James Robinson }

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Contact Us

If you have any questions or queries about anything you read in FISCH Food or you just want more information about FISCH then please contact;

Richard Gercke (founder) - richandlissiegercke@yahoo.co.uk
James Robinson (editor) - noahsapprentice@yahoo.co.uk
Matt Vaughan (writer) - mattjvaughan@googlemail.com

FISCH Website

The UK team would love to develop a FISCH website with up to date news and photos, resources and other pages.

Are you a professional website designer who wants to give a few hours of your time to support the work of FISCH? If so, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact Lissie at
richandlissiegercke@yahoo.co.uk

Fundraising idea of the month

Each month we are going to share with you a simple idea for raising some much needed money for FISCH. If you happen to have run a fundraising event, please do give us the details so we can let people know!

This month...

Leg Waxing

as demonstrated by James, who during February and thanks to the members of Angels Theatre School in Godalming raised £150 for FISCH.

"It really wasn't as painful as everyone made out it would be..."



FISCH is a project of
The Grassroots Trust
(Registered Charity No. 1060034)
8 Meadow Way, Farnham,
Surrey, GU10 4DY



News and Views

‘Credit Crunch’ - an excuse to stop giving?

It is tempting, in these turbulent times in which we live, to focus on our own situations and to ignore the sufferings of others. The “credit crunch” and the ensuing global financial downturn continue to affect millions of people across the globe. As a result, belts are being tightened, unnecessary expenditure is being cut, and people everywhere are tempted to focus on their own immediate needs. Charities around the world are reporting significant drops in income as people reassess their giving and decide that their needs are more pressing and of greater importance than those of others.

This is understandable, of course. Many thousands of people have been made redundant since the downturn began and the impact on families across the world has been huge. Yet it is worth remembering that the repercussions from the financial crisis are felt much more keenly in less prosperous parts of the world. In the UK we complain when the price of bread increases, but we can still easily afford to buy it. In many parts of the world higher food prices mean that people simply don't eat as frequently, or as well. Instead of facing slightly higher food bills, many people face the prospect of no food at all.

It's worth remembering this as we think about the work of FISCH in Tanzania. This godly work, staffed by dedicated Christians who work for so little and yet accomplish so much, is making a massive impact on the lives of many children in Iringa. These are children for whom the words “poverty” and “suffering” are concrete realities.

Take, for example, Vera. In 2000, at the age of fourteen, Vera moved to Iringa to live with a relative, searching for a job that would promise her a better future than the subsistence farming which barely supported her parents and her eight siblings. After doing a sewing course for a year she wanted to set up a sewing business but couldn't afford the start-up costs. She started selling donuts on the streets of Iringa, scratching a living of sorts from the tiny amount of money that this job provided. Soon she met a man who promised to marry her and support her, and at the age of only sixteen they moved in together.

Several years passed, and two daughters were born. Suddenly, in 2008, her boyfriend left home and didn't come back. Seven months later she gave birth to their third child, a boy. Her income from selling donuts barely supported her on her own, so having three extra mouths to feed made her existence even more difficult.

Then, one day, Vera walked into the FISCH centre in Iringa and poured her heart out to Mote Magomba, who recounts:

“I just listened to the story and never uttered a word throughout as she was speaking with very deep sorry – I could see tears in her eyes, dripping down, and I thought, ‘what a sorrowful reminiscence!’ When she finished I prayed for her and her children. I asked her to come back the next day; she came back, a bit relieved after the prayers and counseling the day before. I haven't promised anything to Vera but prayer support. Can you think of ways to help Vera?”

Vera is just one person in Iringa, a needy town. Sadly, there are plenty more like her. Take Claudia, a young girl who was “bought” by a woman from Dar-es-Salaam who was looking for a housemaid. Although Claudia's desperate mother agreed to sell her daughter, Claudia managed to escape from her new “owner” and fled, eventually being brought to the FISCH centre where she was helped and cared for. Or take any of the forty children who turn up at the Saturday club every week and who are able to receive food, medical attention, counseling, and fun activities. Or take any of the twenty-five other children who receive food packages through FISCH. Every single one of these children is deeply loved by God and is receiving food, attention, and love, as well as prayer and counseling. The amazing thing is that all this amazing work, having such a godly impact on the lives of so many children, is able to happen on a budget of a few hundred pounds a week.



Mote, Bernadatte & Claudia

It's worth remembering, in the midst of all the frenzy and furor surrounding the current recession, that God is the only sure foundation on which to build. All the earthly securities which we used to take for granted – banks, jobs, regular incomes – are feeble and transient. Although we may be tempted to hoard the little money we have as a safeguard against future instability, perhaps we can learn from the FISCH workers, operating on a tiny budget, constantly giving out most of the money they have, and transforming lives across Iringa for the greater glory of God. Bless you for being involved.

{ Matt Vaughn }

Each month, Matt will be bringing us 'News and Views', based on the minutes taken at the regular staff meetings held by the Iringa team.

News

Some of you will remember reading about Alexander, he was expelled from the Amani carpentry course. You'll be pleased to know he's now at a place called IDYDC doing some different training.

3 new children have started vocational training at the carpentry school at Amani. Following Alex's expelling they seem to be really keen to give it all they have and not make the same mistake. Alex seems to have been a good influence in a round about sort of way.

We have a new volunteer - a Tanzanian called Simon. He's recently finished secondary school and Mote's hoping he will help out with the office stuff.

Also, recently an English girl has been helping the FISCH team. Her name is Annie and Mote says she's been a real help.

Prayer Points

Moody, Ally and Isaya as they start the carpentry course. To settle in, to make the most of the opportunity of a start in life, for their hearts to be changed as they become integrated into Amani.

That God may raise more volunteers for FISCH ministry, as now churches around Iringa are becoming aware of the ministry.

Guidance in the decision of whether to build a drop in centre.

The release of more funds to support the project.



Profile of the Month

Richard Gercke

Favourites: Colour - Blue, Film - Amazing Grace, Author - C S Lewis, Food – bacon!

Involvement with FISCH: I went to serve as a teacher in a secondary school in a remote village an hour away from Iringa. Whilst my primary focus was to serve at the school, visits to Iringa caused me to quickly become aware of the injustice that existed there. Street children would approach us asking for money, food and clothes, some as young as seven, some as old as seventeen. As I began to spend more time with the street children I felt moved to do more. It wasn't until a conversation with a dear Tanzanian friend and pastor, Mote, that God revealed His plans. We were determined that whatever we did would be done through God's will, and not our own efforts. From here on we saw God do amazing things to encourage us, ultimately leading to the foundation of **FISCH**.

Current involvement: My wife and I are now leading the UK FISCH team which aims to support all the work going on in Iringa while raising awareness in the UK. Our goal is to partner with schools, churches and any groups or individuals who want to support the project.

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(Charity No: 1060034)
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