



May 2026

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

[gofisch.org](http://gofisch.org)  
[office@gofisch.org](mailto:office@gofisch.org)  
[facebook.com/futureforiringastreetchildren](https://facebook.com/futureforiringastreetchildren)



## Welcome to the May edition of FISCH Food!



Oh my, has the sun arrived? Summer is well and truly on its way. The same sun that shines down upon us in the UK is the same sun shining down on roofs of Iringa. The Drop-in-Centre is full of light and life. Here we have several news items to share with you, and we'd be more than happy if you decided to share this newsheet with a friend. We really hope you enjoy reading about the great work going on at FISCH. Just remember, if you're sat out in the garden reading this under the sun's rays, stick some suncream on! Have a lovely May half term everyone!



## FISCH Food Parcels and African Child Day 2026 Prep



Each year since 1991 many African countries celebrate International Day of the African Child on **June 16th**. This day **honours the children** who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976, where around ten thousand black school children marched in a column more than half a mile long, protesting the **poor quality of their education** and demanding their right to be taught in their own language. The protest ended in violence, with hundreds of **students shot and many killed**.

As part of the preparations for African Child Day, an **awareness session** was held at the Drop-in-Centre, alongside the distribution of the monthly Food Parcels. Over **50 parents and caregivers** were in attendance, and topics covered included strategies to **prevent violence** against children, **child protection**, and **safety measures**. The session aimed to strengthen the capacity of parents and caregivers to **help create a safe and supportive environment for the Children**.

Look out in the next issue for photos of how the FISCH Team and Children commemorated the Day of the African Child!





## Visit and Support From A Local Charity



Once again, the good news about FISCH and its ministries is continuing to spread **throughout the community**.

**Tanzanite One Family** is a community group based in Iringa whose main objective is to **support one another** in both **difficult and happy times**. Every year on April 25th, Tanzanite One Family celebrates its anniversary by carrying out **acts of kindness** in the community. This year, they extended their generosity to FISCH through **donations** for the Children supported by us at the Drop-in-Centre. Their donation included a whopping **90kg of rice, 10kg of sugar, cooking oil, bars of soap, body lotion, sanitary pads and over 50 pieces of clothing**. They also purchased meat specially for a **celebratory meal** to be shared with the Children at the Drop-in-Centre.

Tanzanite One Family concluded their celebrations at a local hotel where several of the FISCH Team were invited to attend. A dance group provided entertainment, some of which were Children from FISCH; furthermore, some Tanzanian One Family members made a **financial gift** to help support these Children, helping them to meet their daily needs (such as rental payments).

Erasto, Acting Operations Manager, expressed his **heartfelt gratitude** to Tanzanite One Family on behalf of all the Team and Children at FISCH, for their kindness and generosity, and for touching so many lives through FISCH. The UK Team also joined him in thanking Tanzanite One Family for their kindness and support. **What amazing generosity!**





## Ongoing Street Visits



This month Erasto met up with a small group of Children whom he knew and spent some time sharing with them about the **opportunities available** to them through FISCH. They were hungry, so he bought some food for them, which they promptly shared with each other and also with Erasto.

Most of these Children were **under 14 years of age** and do not have formal work on the Streets. They survive by **begging for money** in areas such as around large restaurants, traffic lights where cars stop, marketplaces and bus stops. Erasto asked what they did with the money they received; they told him it helps them to buy dinner, as FISCH provides them with breakfast, lunch and clothing at the Drop-in-Centre. They also chose to use the money to pay to play videogames and also for gambling.

Erasto continued to **build up trust** with these Children, and through several conversations and night gatherings the group opened up enough to **invite Erasto to visit where they slept**. This was a **special honour**, as the Street Children are often afraid to reveal their sleeping places for fear of police patrols at night. The Children piled into the FISCH car and they directed him to their sleeping area.

What Erasto saw was heartbreaking. These Children were sleeping in **unsafe**, sometimes **dangerous conditions**, underneath the foundations of houses. They use **cardboard boxes for beds** and **plastic sacks as blankets**. A plastic sack that is assumed to be holding inert goods could be hiding a Child fast asleep and oblivious to the world around them.



Many of these Children have already passed through FISCH but have **chosen to return** to the Street Life. The allure of freedom and the ability to earn meagre money through begging is too tempting to bear, and some of them find life too confining at the Short-Term-Accommodation after weeks or months roaming the city of Iringa.

However, no matter the appeal of the Streets, the **future is bleak for these Children**.

At FISCH, the Team is doing meaningful and impactful work to support these Children where possible day in, day out, and we will continue to share the message of hope with these vulnerable Children so that they may know there is the chance of a brighter future for them. It may feel disheartening to hear that some Children choose to return to the Streets than persevere with the opportunities FISCH offers; however, this is their choice, and at the very least, they know that FISCH is there for them should they change their minds and hearts. We must also remember that there are **many more Children who do choose to pursue hope and a future** with FISCH, and their lives are being changed for the better.

Dear Reader and Friend of FISCH, **thank you** for all your support over the years. Your support, prayers and giving are the reasons we can still offer those Street Children a **hope and a future!**



## A Mechanical Visit



We recently received a visit to the FISCH Office by three of our **FISCH Vocational Students** who are studying practical mechanical courses at one of the garages in Iringa. (You may remember we featured some of these Students in Oct 2024's edition as they embarked on their courses.)

The young men who visited the Team were **Jonathan, Adam** and **Joseph**. Jonathan and Joseph are studying **General Mechanics** whilst Adam has specialised in **Automotive Electrical Engineering**. They are supported by FISCH through the provision of **transport fares, food, accommodation, work tools** and **uniforms**.

The reason for their visit to the FISCH Office was to sincerely **thank FISCH and the Team** for the support they continue to receive. Although life has become very expensive with prices of many things going up due to increased fuel costs (something we daresay we are all familiar with!), they all said that they still have many reasons to be grateful because they are **progressing well** with their training. The young men believe that the knowledge and skills they are currently gaining will help them in the future to overcome poverty and dependency for living, and they will be able to earn a living and become **self-sufficient through their trade skills**. They promised to continue to work hard in their studies, and to be patient and stay committed that one day they may be skilled and trustworthy mechanics.

What a great story to share! And what an **inspiration** this must have been for the other Children at the Drop-in-Centre, to see these young men taking hold of an opportunity and **turning it into a brighter future for themselves!**



## The Behind-The-Scenes Work

Recently **Gasper**, the FISCH Social Worker, has been working towards **reuniting a young Child** back to his family. Where possible we aim to reunite Children into a family environment and can help in different ways for this to happen. However, before this reunification can happen, **a lot of work** needs to go on first.

**Simon\*** had been separated from his mother and maternal grandparents when he was very young, when his father abducted him from the family home. However, his father sent him to live with a paternal aunt in Iringa. Sadly, his aunt abandoned Simon when he was only 8 or 9 years old, leaving him to struggle on the Streets. His family **feared he was lost to them forever**, possible even no longer alive. At the end of last year, Simon's aunt received information that Simon was at FISCH and decided to inform his maternal family, but they did not think her believable.

Nevertheless, this year the family tracing process at FISCH has restored **hope** and **happiness** to Simon's family; **FISCH Social Worker Gasper** visited the family and was pleased to share that Simon was alive and doing well. This visit was to help start building a picture of the family life that Simon had come from and hopefully will go back to. By understanding the situation, FISCH will understand **how best to support Simon** and his mother during and after reunification. This process for Simon's family has brought relief, trust and a renewed unity to Simon's family, helping to ensure that he can safely return and re-integrate into family life and environment.

Please do pray for Gasper, as he works alongside the family to bring about a **happy** and **sustainable** future family life for Simon. We are **really grateful** for all his efforts in his role as Social Worker at FISCH!



<https://gofisch.org/donate>

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*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...  
it is the Lord Christ you are severing. – Colossians 3:23-24*

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