



April 2021



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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 Spring edition of FISCH Food!

Well, hasn't it been an interesting 12 months for the UK, and indeed the world? As we come out of Lockdown here in the UK, the ministries at FISCH in Iringa, Tanzania, are continuing, witnessing the love of Jesus to the Street Children in the form of food, fun and fellowship. It's been a really tough year for many folk, so we are so grateful that FISCH is still going on strong. Thank you for your prayers, support and contribution in this challenging time. We hope you enjoy reading all about the good news that we have to share with you, and we hope you had a happy Easter!



## FISCH Utd Update

The FISCH Utd Football Team continues to be a place where the Children find **friendship**, **connection** and a sense of **collective worth**, as well as working on their physical health. Several of our Kids have even gone on to play for bigger clubs further up the football pyramid in Tanzania! One the lads, **Neto**, is a particularly good player, and you can see him in the photos below.

These last few months FISCH Utd has been playing friendly matches again against local clubs, and this coming quarter they will begin a **one week training camp** before entering their annual **Cup Competition**. We will be sure to update you of their progress next time!



## Drop-in-Centre Courtyard Facelift



The Drop-in-Centre (DiC) is the **central hub** of FISCH Ministries. This **multi-use building** is home to the kitchen for the Saturday Feeding Project, the bedrooms for Short-Term Accommodation, FISCH Church, shower facilities – and more. The Team and Children socialise and play here, and being Africa, the outdoor courtyard is in constant use. It is used as a space for **socialising**, sharing **communal meals**, enjoying the **sunshine**, and of course, **playtime!** Recently the courtyard has been resurfaced – the stones have been laid, and next it will be smoothed and painted, ready for the Kids to play on.





## Vocational Studies

Although we try to encourage and equip all FISCH-registered Kids to attend school, this is not always the right solution for some of them, and **vocational training may be more suitable**.

Where funds permit, we try to equip these young men and women with **practical skills** with which they can gain employment from. Sometimes this is through **our own training classes** such as the Sewing Club, and on other occasions we will **fund their training elsewhere**.

We are delighted to share the news that recently a number of FISCH Kids completed their vocational training courses. Here is a photo of **Samweli, Alex K, Alex M** and **Ashery** with their **Driving Licence certificates**, which they completed at VETA (the Vocational Education and Training Authority). Now they have their licence they will be able to gain local employment as drivers of **Bajaji's, minibuses** or **motorbikes**. These forms of transport are very popular in Tanzania and are used by individuals instead of public transport in their daily life.

In the last couple of months **another 6 young men and woman** began vocational training on various courses including mechanics and driving.

We'd like to take this opportunity to **thank Natalya's Fund** for providing the funds to cover Samweli, Alex, Alex and Ashery's driving training course. Thank you! (Check out [natalyafund.org.uk](http://natalyafund.org.uk) for more info.)

## Sewing Club News

This in-house training continues to thrive, and this year's class has **seven new Students**, all FISCH-registered Kids from exceptionally poor and vulnerable circumstances. The Class continues to be led by **Eva**, an ex-FISCH Street Kid, who herself was trained as a Tailor by FISCH some years ago, and was **supported to start her own business**. The Class finished the calendar year by helping to make over **200 uniforms** for other FISCH Kids. This term Eva set them the task of making their own uniforms. I am sure you will agree that they look fantastic! Over the coming months they will also be making facemasks to be worn by Children and adults within the FISCH community.

*Top Row: Mwajuma, Furaha, Betiana  
Bottom row: Teddy, Zaituni, Fadhila, Anna*



## Recent Events in Tanzania

As many of you may have seen in the news, Tanzania has recently been mourning the loss of their President, **John Magufuli**. The country is currently moving to a new administration, so we pray for a peaceful transition.

There has been an increase in reports of people dying with breathing complications within the community. This is most prevalent in those aged over 60. We are grateful that **no FISCH Staff or Children** have suffered with these symptoms, but we are continuing to adhere to strict hygiene measures and taking precautions to protect the FISCH Community. Thank you for continuing to pray for the health of the FISCH Community, and all of Tanzania.

## Simon's Beard Progress – 4 months in

You may recall in a previous edition of the FISCH Food that one member of our UK FISCH Team boldly set himself the challenge of **not shaving for an entire year!** All this to raise awareness and some funds for FISCH. Simon **beat his initial target** of raising £500 **within the first month!** He has subsequently increased the target. If you would like to support him then please check out this link; [facebook.com/spforfish](https://facebook.com/spforfish).







## A Face From The Past

Some of our supporters may be familiar with how FISCH began in 2007. One of our founders **Rich Gercke** often recounts the time he was approached by a young boy who was living on the Streets called **Clarence**. At first Clarence asked for money, but Rich declined and offered to buy him some food. Clarence took Rich by the hand and led him behind the old market where a local vendor served them **tea and bread**. The following week when Rich returned to Iringa there was Clarence, together with two more Street Boys, Alex and Eric, and off they went to the old market again for a meal. This quickly became a **weekly occurrence**, with more and more Street Children each time, and a few weeks later the first **Saturday Feeding Club** was launched.

In this way, Clarence was the very first Street Child to be registered with FISCH. During that first year FISCH supported Clarence to **move off the Streets and live with a foster family**. It was a big transition for Clarence, because he had lived on the Streets for so long. After a time he moved on from the foster family, and moved back to the village he had come from. However as time passed we lost contact with Clarence.

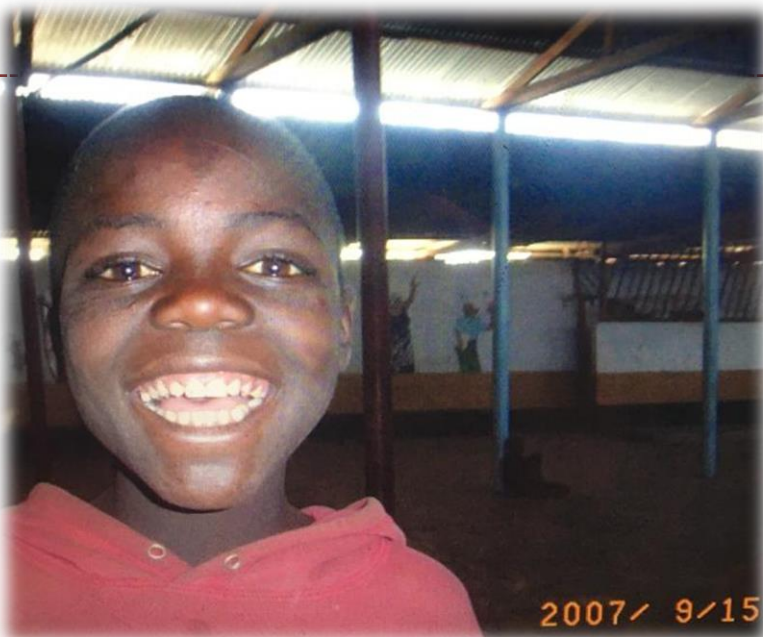
**That is, until last year!** Clarence tracked Rich down on Facebook, and the two of them had an emotional phone call after all this time. Clarence, now a mature young man in his early twenties, has been on an incredible journey, and lives in neighbouring Zanzibar, dedicating his time to **helping other young boys** who have lost their way. He has never forgotten the love and care FISCH showed him, and credits the influence FISCH had on his life for the values he lives out today.

Clarence recently visited the FISCH Drop-in-Centre in Iringa and **spoke to the Children**, inspiring and encouraging them. Afterwards he recorded a short video, In his words;

*“I was one of the Kids living on the streets and today I came here to see the leaders who are still helping these Street Children, and of course they are the ones who helped me. I came here to say hi and to show my appreciation – I was one of them, and in the days I was on the street the FISCH leaders were the ones who were meeting me, giving me tea and food. I grew up in their way, they taught me what kind of person I could be, and today I became the right person. Where I am coming from is FISCH, thank you so much, these guys are doing an amazing job!”*



Left, Clarence back in 2007 when he was first registered at FISCH; Right, Mote and Clarence on his visit to Iringa and the Drop-in-Centre



## Back With Families

Where possible we try and encourage Kids to **move off the Streets** and back into **safe secure homes** with their families or other relatives. To help facilitate this we have the **Short Term Accommodation** scheme; beds and bathrooms that the Children can use whilst they stay here. This allows the Team to **address the reasons** that the Children are on the Street in the first place. Is it because there is not food at home? A death of a parent? No money for education? Whilst these needs are being addressed, the Children can get involved with the activities at the DiC. Here we see **Samson, Marko, Gasper, Noel, Lusungu, Robert** and **David** who have recently moved back with their families.



## New UK Team Members

We are delighted to welcome **Elizabeth and Bob** as the latest members of our UK Team of volunteers. They will kindly be overseeing **University and Further Education sponsorships**, and will become the point of contact between the Tanzanian Team and UK supporters on this area. We are thrilled that **two more** of our University Students have **received sponsorship** this past quarter. We continue to seek sponsorship for a number of other Students who have been begun University courses so if you would like more information, please contact [office@gofisch.org](mailto:office@gofisch.org).

Elizabeth and Bob are the aunt and uncle of UK Team Member Paige and have heard about FISCH and its ministries over many years from conversations with Paige, especially following her trips to Tanzania, and both Elizabeth and her husband have become ever more **interested and involved** as time has gone by. Both are committed Christians and enjoy being part of a **small but effective charity** helping children get off the streets and into education so that they can be **self-sufficient** and in time be in a position to help their families and local communities.

Here's an update from Elizabeth and Bob;

"There have been some amazing improvements in the levels of education and wellbeing in many of the FISCH Children, including a small but growing number that have achieved **exam success** and subsequently been offered places at colleges and universities.

Students currently benefitting from sponsorship are **Aloyce, Apollo, Best, Happy, Maria, Neema, Promina, Stonney, Vivian** and **Gloria. Grace** is still waiting for this support.

The Students are very committed to their Further Education and are studying such diverse subjects as **architecture, medicine, human resources, nursing** and **teaching** etc. **Tibilius**, the first FISCH Child to attend university, **graduated with a 1st in Clinical Medicine** in 2020. They

are all eager to use the skills they learn to make a better world for themselves and those around them.

More Children are expected to be identified ahead and planning is underway for them now."

Sponsors receive a **profile** of the Student at the start of their sponsorship journey together and then updates are sent every 6 months in the form of emails or sometimes video messages.

The costs involved are a fraction of those in the UK and typically around **£1200** for the first year and then often reduce for the following years. Some Sponsors can commit to the full amount up front or donate monthly. We are also looking at sponsorship where several people might be able to support one Child to make this much more affordable.



*Give a man a fish, and you will feed him for a day.  
Teach a man to fish, and you have fed him for a lifetime.*



### Food Parcel Sponsorship Scheme

Each month a number of Children and their parents or guardians come to the Drop-in-Centre to pick up their Food Parcel.

Why do we offer Food Parcels?

Well, **one of the biggest reasons** that a **Child is on the Streets** is because the family **doesn't have enough money to provide food** for the Children, let alone clothes or an education, and never mind luxuries. Consequently, the Children head out to the Streets to try their luck **begging**, especially from the tourists in the area.

In a bid to **remove the need** for Children to go onto the Streets, and to **provide essential nutrition** for these Kids, the Food Parcel Scheme was born. A monthly commitment of **£19.50** enables us to provide a Food Parcel (pictured left) which includes **25kg of maize flour** (for making *ugali*), **5kg of beans**, **2kg of sugar** and **2lt of oil**.



Interested in getting involved? Contact [sarahmaguire@onething.org.uk](mailto:sarahmaguire@onething.org.uk).



# FISCH Church



The Sunday Services held at the FISCH Drop-In-Centre are **open to all Children and any adults** from the surrounding area who would like to attend. It has grown considerably over the past year, with attendances well over **100** becoming the norm. Here are some pictures from our **Palm Sunday celebration, Easter baptisms** and the **FISCH Choir**.



☞ Palm Sunday celebrations

Baptisms ☞



FISCH Church Easter Sunday celebrations ☞



☞ FISCH Choir



## Visit from Street Performers

This month FISCH was graced with a demonstration from a troupe of Street Performers after the Saturday Feeding Club. The performers showcased many talents, including fun hat juggling, unicycling and standing on a bed of nails!



## 10k Fundraiser

Next month a Friend of FISCH is running a 10km to raise awareness and funds for FISCH. If you would like to sponsor Lucy in her athletic efforts on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, here is her Just Giving page. Thanks Lucy, and all the best!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lucy-radcliffe1>



“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in Heaven, and glory in the highest Heaven!” *Luke 19:38*

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