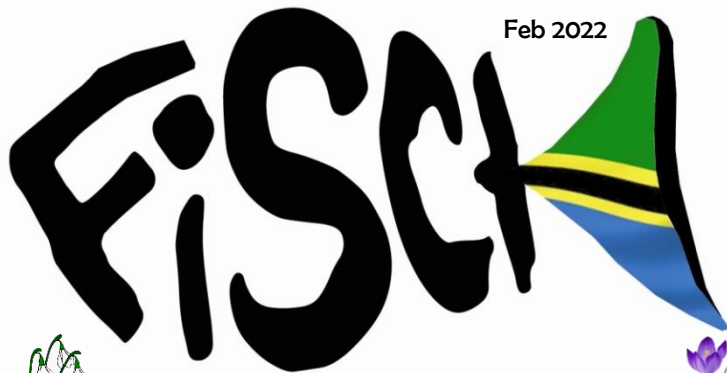


Feb 2022



gofisch.org
office@gofisch.org
facebook.com/futureforiringastreetchildren



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 Winter edition of FISCH Food!

Greetings, dear Friends of FISCH! We hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and that 2022 is treating you well thus far. Life is starting to get back to a new normal in the UK and life at the Drop-in-Centre in Iringa continues as usual. We have some changes to the Team in Iringa, a visit by Rich Gercke to report on, and very excitingly, a new Project starting. Read on for more great news and updates!



Christmas Joy and Thanks



Christmas is such a special time across the world to celebrate the **arrival of Jesus Christ**. Each year the Drop-in-Centre hosts FISCH Church's **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day services** and **celebrations**. These celebrations attract many locals to come and join in along with the FISCH Kids, their families and the FISCH Team. As you can see, it looks like they had a joyous time!

Thank you so much to all of you who **donated towards a Christmas present** for the Children. We are really grateful for this, and we will be sharing more specific feedback to individual supporters in the coming weeks. For anyone still wanting to give a gift, this can still be done through the website; <https://gofisch.org/gifting>.



A Crafty Christmas Fundraiser

We love a good fundraiser, especially one that you can eat! Just before Christmas last year the **Craft Group** at St Saviour's Church in Guildford decided to donate funds raised towards FISCH - £415 to be exact! They are now currently busy producing **home-made marmalade** with all donations going towards FISCH once again. There must be a lot of jamjars trading hands! **Thank you** to you lovely ladies in the Craft Group for your hard work.





School Uniform Provision Update

January is one of the busiest times of year for our team in Iringa because it is the time when we **distribute uniform and stationery** to those Children who otherwise would not be able to attend school – the earlier stages of schooling in Tanzania is free, but the **cost of required supplies** such as uniform, textbooks, pencils, etc, **can be prohibitive**. Many of these items such as the uniforms are made by graduates from our **Sewing Class**, some of whom are running their own micro businesses.

Thank you so much to those of you who give regularly to this cause! It's a cliché but education is so valuable, and it is essential for helping these Children to one day becoming **self-sufficient** and working their way **out of poverty**. At FISCH we believe in changing lives from the **roots up**, and education is one the biggest ways we can achieve this.

Thanks to your support we have been able to distribute uniforms to **over 300 FISCH Kids** once again this year! We are still reliant on large one-off donations for this annual need. We are so grateful for these. However if you'd like to give specifically to this need regularly please email office@gofisch.org for more details.



The Children are so pleased to receive their uniforms and school supplies!



A Visit to Iringa



In November 2021 Rich Gercke, Co-Founder of FISCH Tz and Chairman of FISCH UK took the opportunity to visit Iringa and catch up on how things were getting on. This is what he shares about his time out there...

It feels like an age ago now, but back in November I grabbed the opportunity for a quick visit to Iringa after the UK Government had relaxed the travel regulations. It was the first chance I had to visit since Covid, and I was delighted to be joined by Chris How, a member my Church here in Guildford, and long-time supporter of FISCH.

Although I am in constant communication with the Tanzanian team, receiving photos, videos and discussing operations on a weekly basis, there is nothing quite like being on the ground itself, meeting with people, laughing with people, praying with people.

I was struck by just how much FISCH has grown even in the last couple of years; the scale of what we are now doing in Iringa, the many different programs, the number of Children we are helping. FISCH really has become part of the fabric of life for so many Children and their families. It has become a real community, with a history, a heart and a vision.

...continued...



...continued...

Since FISCH began in 2007 we have registered over 1,000 Children, and each of them are now at a different point in their journey. Standing in the FISCH Drop-in-Centre I could see newly-registered Kids lining up for lunch, whilst in a different room Children who preparing to join Secondary School were being taught Science by Promina, one of our FISCH Kids from the past who has recently graduated from University. In the next room a class of 9 students sat at their sewing machines, eager to show me the new skills they had learnt, and to take my measurements for a shirt they would later give me as a leaving gift.

I met with Gennis and Clalence, two of the very first Children FISCH helped in 2007 when I was living there. Gennis is hoping to begin Pastor training, and Clalence to begin a new Feeding Project with his local community in Zanzibar. To be there with these guys and others closer to independence such as Aloyce (another FISCH University Student) and converse in English, having seen them progress on their journey for so many years, was truly special!

I could tell you so much more, but to summarise, I was very encouraged by the wonderful work our team are doing in Iringa, and I want to thank all of you readers and supporters for contributing over the years to grow our work to this point.

As always when I visit, I am left feeling both delighted at what is being achieved, but desperate to do more, and it's clear to me that we have probably reached a ceiling in terms of what we can achieve with the current level of resources. When we started FISCH we had a clear vision of what we wanted to achieve, and I can say that we have not yet reached that level. We have plans to build a vocational training centre and a short term rehabilitation centre, and as those of who read these newsletters will know we have taken the first steps toward that with the purchase of 9 acres of land.

There is still a long way to go, and my prayer now is for increased regular financial resources to grow and upskill the team in Tanzania, both to consolidate what we have achieved and to enable us to build capacity to reach the next level.

Thank you for being a part of this. It is exciting to think there is still so much more we can do together to make a difference!



Clalence, Rich and Gennis



A New Year's Resolution – Resolved!

Do you recall last year we shared that one of our UK Team Members had made a resolution **not to pick up the razor** for a whole year? **Simon**, a Prayer Warrior of FISCH, did not shave his beard for the whole of 2021 – and in doing so he raised a whopping **£524** for FISCH, hitting his target and then some. A big congratulations to Simon, and a cheer for the beard!

Hurrah!



FISCH Utd – New Kit

A big shout out and **thank out** to **Lanesborough School** who donated some football equipment to the ever-popular FISCH Utd Football teams!





“Move Zanzibar” Launch – A Project of FISCH

If you are a regular reader of the FISCH Food, you may remember **Clarence** (previously spelt Clarence) from recent editions. He was the **very first Street Child** that FISCH helped.

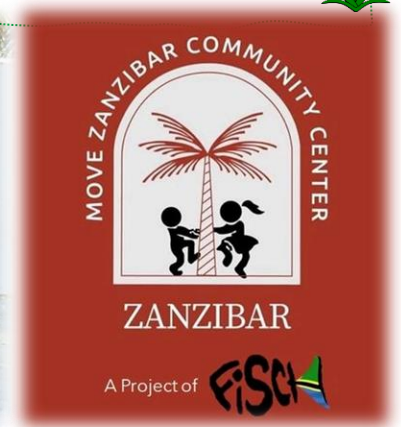
Over the past couple of years Clarence, together with a small group of volunteers, have been helping Children living in poverty in **Zanzibar**, by sharing their skills for dance and acrobatics, motivating and inspiring them to use their own talents for a **better future**.

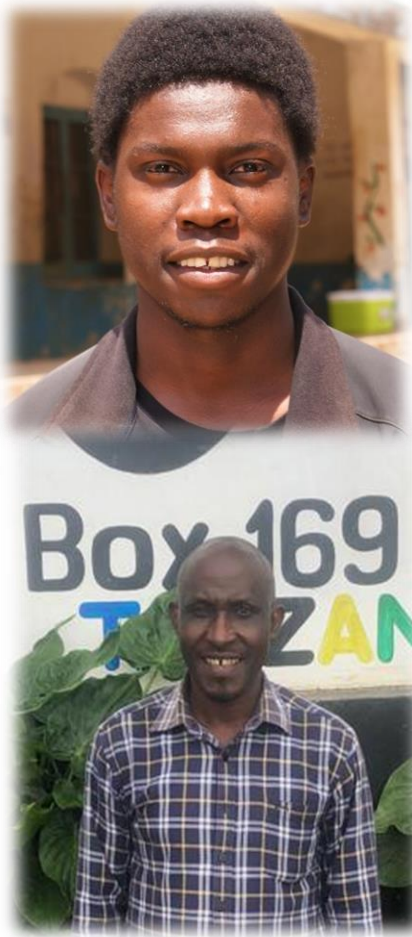
Clarence’s passion is to be able to help these Kids more thoroughly, and to receive a more comprehensive and holistic level of support and opportunities, eventually to the same level as those at FISCH.

We share this desire, and we are seeking to build on what Clarence has started, beginning with a **Feeding Project**, expanding in time to follow a similar model to that of FISCH in Iringa.

Thank you to those of you who have contributed towards this new Feeding Project. As a result of your generosity, we were able to launch the **Move Zanzibar Feeding Project** at the end of January, focusing on a targeted group of **50-60 Children**. We hope this will be the start of something special! We will need to grow our support base for this new project in order to continue, so if this is something that you feel inspired to support please get in touch or visit the Move Zanzibar section on our website.

gofisch.org/about-move-zanzibar





Welcome Gasper – Farewell Billy



Sadly we will be saying “goodbye” to **Billy** as he seeks to **continue his studies** in South Africa. Billy has done a fantastic job at FISCH this past year and will certainly be missed by all of us. He has provided some wonderful feedback and photos of the events and activities in Iringa and been a real blessing to the work there. Before he leaves us he is completing a **placement in Zanzibar** working with Clalence to help establish the structure for the new Feeding Project and has been a great asset there.

However, we are pleased to share with our Friends of FISCH that we are taking on a new Administration worker at FISCH. His name is **Gasper**, and he has been working with vulnerable children for the past 19 years; as a Municipal Social Welfare Officer in Iringa Municipality, and most recently with the Iringa Development of Disabled Youth and Children. Gasper first came across FISCH back in 2010, so he was keen to apply for the position when it came about, and to be part of the FISCH vision. Gasper’s passions in life are **football** (especially his local Simba Sport Club, and Arsenal in the Premier league), and **Jesus Christ**. Gasper is married to Anna, a Community Development Officer in Makete District, and together they have three children: Karen, King and Brandon.

We’d love to take this opportunity to publicly **wish Billy every success** in his future, and to **welcome Gasper on board** to the Team in Iringa!



FISCH Kid Focus – Emmanuel

Emmanuel is originally from Ilula, a village 50km from Iringa. He came to the Streets of Iringa in search of an **improved life** from the one in his village. From there, he discovered FISCH and when being counselled it was concluded that the best way to support him would be through **education**. He has always been an involved member in the FISCH Church so through that he fitted well into the **Amani Bible College**, where he studies. He settled well in the school and continued to be a valuable contributor to FISCH Church.

On 11th December Emmanuel graduated from his short course in **Evangelism** at the Amani Bible College, very proud of his journey following God’s path. Moving forward, he will do a **2-year carpentry course** to equip himself with practical trade skills. After that Emmanuel wants to go back to studying to become an ordained **priest**. **Congratulations to Emmanuel!**



Back Home

Where possible FISCH aims to re-integrate Street Children **back into family life**. FISCH will help provide Food Parcels for those families who just can’t feed their kids, or will provide the fees or equipment for school so that the children are able to go.

Sometimes we provide counselling for broken relationships within the home. Last year a total of **34** Kids were re-integrated back into family homes. The most recent Kids include; **Grand, Bahati, Zabron** and **Patrick**. Please pray that they continue to settle into family life after their time on the Streets.





We are delighted to share an exciting new opportunity that is arising as a result of a new partnership between FISCH and Salt & Light Leadership Coaching. This company was founded by **Jon Bircher**, a member of St Saviours Church, with a purpose of developing and coaching leaders.

Jon has built his company on core values that include **love, service and sacrifice**, even embedding these into the company's sales targets by pledging to donate a percentage of revenue to support our work! **What an incredibly inspiring way to run a business!**

Our intention is to use these donations specifically to develop a growing need at FISCH. For many years we have invested in **vocational training courses** for FISCH Kids for whom the normal education system is no longer appropriate. In addition to this we have trained a number through our own sewing class at the FISCH Drop-in-Centre. With more and more Kids becoming skilled there is a real need to help them into employment, and where appropriate to set up their own small **micro-enterprises**.

We have been doing this over the years, but as our charity has grown this need has also significantly grown. With this new partnership we now hope to be in a position to do this on a larger scale, and have begun a recruitment process to appoint a new member to our Team in Tanzania with a specific focus on vocational training placement, student support, micro-enterprise training and career advising. We see this very much as a natural step of growth for the charity as more and more FISCH Kids complete education and need support into employment to become fully independent. **Please do pray** for this area as it evolves in the coming months.



FISCH Graduation Ceremony

Our Sewing Class has been growing over the last couple of years under the tutelage of **Eva**, an ex-FISCH Child who we trained and helped to establish her own micro-business some years ago. **The Class is thriving**, so much so that during Rich's visit last November a **big celebration** was held for the 7 FISCH Kids who have completed their training and 'graduated'. It was a very special event with over **300 Children and adults** from the FISCH Community in attendance! The next step for these Graduates is to begin their own micro-business, something that FISCH will be supporting them with, as we have done so with others in previous years.



FISCH Garden



The Team and Children tend a small garden at the FISCH Drop-in-Centre, which is currently growing **tomatoes**. Don't they look fab?

For I am about to do something new... I will make a pathway in the wilderness. I will create rivers in the wasteland. – Isaiah 43:19