



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 Summer edition of FISCH Food!

Wow, it's hot hot hot! What spectacular sunshine we have been having recently. Whilst it's actually Summer here in the UK, it's the dry season over in Tanzania. It's been a while since we last sent out a FISCH Food Newsletter, but as usual, this one is packed to the brim with news and updates from both the Team at the Drop-in-Centre in Iringa, and the Team in the UK. We really hope you enjoy reading this edition, and as always, please feel free to pass it along to a friend. Who knows, they might become a new Friend of FISCH!



Introducing Charles Pius, Programme Coordinator

We are delighted to share that we have a new Team Member on the Team in Iringa. Charles joins with a degree in Microfinance and Enterprise Development, as well as recent experience working in the field of entrepreneurial education. He is passionate about helping people to improve their economic circumstances and raise their social status, and wants to apply his skills by supporting members of the FISCH community to gain employment or set up micro businesses. Charles is working closely with Bob and Liz, members of the UK team, as we seek to grow our investment in this area and help many more FISCH beneficiaries take steps towards financial independence.

Welcome, Charles!



Move Zanzibar Update

If you read the last edition of the FISCH Food in Feb 22, you will have read about Clalence and his work with the street kids on Zanzibar. Well, their acrobatics shows have been drawing in the crowds! On average 60 children attend Move Zanzibar on a Saturday and enjoy acrobatics, dancing and a live band, with a meal provided too. Several dozen guests attended the workshops and Clalence and his small team were able to share the work that is happening at the community centre.





Entrepreneurial Support Begins!

Regular readers of our newsletter may recall us sharing about a new partnership between FISCH and Salt & Light Coaching. This company was founded by Jon Bircher, a member of St Saviours Church, with a purpose of developing and coaching leaders. We shared about how with more and more FISCH kids becoming educated and skilled, there is a real need to help them into employment, and where appropriate to set up their own small micro-enterprises.

The support from Salt & Light Coaching has enabled us to do this on a greater scale, and the first step was recruiting and appointing Charles (see above).

Although it is still early days, we wanted to share with you one exciting development that has already begun;

Some of you may have heard of Neto via our updates in the FISCH Food. Neto is one of the first individuals FISCH ever supported and over the years has become a key member of the community. He has benefitted from Food Parcels and educational support, regularly attending the Saturday Feeding Project and other programmes at FISCH. We have seen him grow as a person and become a role model for other kids, captaining the FISCH Utd football team on many occasions.

Neto (below) has been getting by through ad hoc jobs, such as carrying goods to be sold at the local market, as well as selling spices and other items where possible. With Charles' help, Neto prepared a business plan, to build a small business selling spices and vegetables away from the market. With capital support from FISCH, a short trial has begun to see if there is sufficient potential for this to become a successful venture for Neto. Below are the first photos of Neto standing proudly with his new cart!

This is just one of many micro business opportunities that we hope to support in the coming months, as we continue to pursue our target of helping FISCH-registered individuals reach full independence.



Partnership with St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

We are really excited to share about news of a new partnership between FISCH and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Guildford. One of our founders (Rich) recently had the opportunity to share about FISCH with the children at St Josephs, and they were really interested to hear about what life is like for many of the FISCH children in Tanzania.

We hope that over the years this partnership will enable children from both the school and FISCH in Tanzania to grow their perspective of the wider world, learn about each other's culture, and see how their actions can make a difference to one another's lives!

If you are connected to a school and would like to explore the possibility of building a partnership with FISCH do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you via email office@gofisch.org.



In Memoriam...

We have some sad news to share with our wider FISCH Family, both from Iringa and here in the UK.

Fred was one of our FISCH Kids who was staying at the Short-Term-Accommodation at the Drop-in-Centre. Tragically he was knocked down and killed by a lorry one night. The Team and the Children at FISCH were devastated by these events, but fortunately our Team were able to locate his relatives, inform them of Fred's passing and arrange for him to be transported back to his home town.

We have also suffered a loss in the wider UK FISCH Family. **Sylvia** was a long-time supporter of FISCH and an avid reader of the Newsletter with family links to the UK Team. She regularly gave to FISCH in various ways. She loved to know she was making a difference in childrens' lives. Twice she decided to ask her friends and family to refrain from buying her Christmas presents, with the money that would have been otherwise spent going towards the Christmas activities in Iringa instead. Sylvia sadly passed away very unexpectedly and she leaves a big hole in many hearts. It was decided at her funeral and celebration of her life that donations in lieu of flowers would be gifted to FISCH, as her family were sure that would have made her very happy to do so.

Please do pray for both the families of Fred and Sylvia, as they come to terms with their loss. We give thanks to God that in Him, death is not the end.



African Child Day Celebrations



The 16th June is an important date in Tanzania, as it is African Child Day. It is held to commemorate the Soweto Uprising in 1976, where demonstrations were led by black school children in apartheid South Africa. These demonstrations were in response to the discontent at having Afrikaans introduced as a medium of teach in local schools. Tragically these demonstrations were met with brutal opposition from state leadership, with many innocent children shot and killed. Many countries within the SADC (Southern Africa Development Community) honour this day as a reminder of the painful history, but more importantly, as a reminder of the crucial importance of children's rights and why it is an important duty to safeguard these rights.

Here you can see the Children at FISCH taken part in the African Child Day celebrations.

Prayer Team Warriors Invite



Here at FISCH, prayer is at the heart of everything we do. FISCH is God's project and we rely on Him to provide, and we've never been disappointed! Each month a few of the UK Team meet on Zoom to have a prayer session, headed up by Luke Ingledow of the UK Team. This is an opportunity to meet together, give thanks and praises to God, pray for wisdom and for the needs of the Project. If you would be interested in joining one of these prayer meetings, please contact Luke at office@gofisch.org.

Congratulations to the Gercke Family



We'd love to take this opportunity to share some lovely news from the UK FISCH Team. Lissie and Rich Gercke, co-founders of FISCH, welcome their fourth child to their family. She was born safe and well at home and both mother, baby, father and siblings are doing grand.





FISCH Student Update



Alice is one of the FISCH Students studying in Further Education. Here we find out more as to how her studies are going...

Name of Student: *Alice*

Course: *Diploma in Community Development at Ruaha Community Development Training Institute*

Progression through course: *I will complete my second year soon and so one year of my course will remain.*

What have you learnt in your course recently that you have enjoyed? *I have been learning about community leadership and I feel very inspired to become a leader in the community myself.*

Have there been any challenges? *Access to a computer and books is sometimes a problem.*

[FISCH is looking to see what further help can be provided to source more books, stationery and better internet access.]

Have you taken any exams or tests recently? *I achieved 83% for my course work, which is similar to a B+, and I am very happy with this. I have completed some tests this semester and awaiting the results, although I did not find them difficult.*

How are you feeling about your final year and do you have any concerns or need help with anything? *Better access to books and a computer for studying would help me. [See above response from FISCH]*

Have you had time to do other things when not studying? *I do have some time and would like to get a part time job or set a small business if possible.*

What are you planning to do over the summer break? *I plan to take a sewing course to get some tailoring training.*

Have you thought about what you might like to do when you finish your course? *I would like to get access to a bachelor degree course if possible.*

Any additional information you would like to share: *I would like to thank FISCH and my sponsor for supporting me and hope this continues so I have a good chance of getting good employment.*



As you can see, Alice (below) is making great progress! However the inflation that is affecting life over here in the UK is also affecting students in Tanzania, meaning that stationery and travel costs have risen.

We are discovering that many Students are finding it difficult to access computers and IT equipment during their studies at College or University. We are seeing what FISCH might be able to do to help them and have already agreed to provide some additional support from September, so they can use internet cafes as a starting point. We are assessing each case individually. We are really grateful to our FISCH Student Sponsors for sponsoring the Students!!



A Fun Way To Remember

Recently some of the FISCH Kids have been putting their dance moves to good use and memorising the books of the Bible in order with some fun actions and poses. The Kids that took part and were successful are Haruni, Ezra, Joseph, John, Bright, Innocent and Luka. Well done Kids!





Reunited with Family

One of the important and life-changing things that FISCH seeks to do for our Children is to reunite them back with their family and help to transition them back into family life. There are many reasons for a Child to end up on the Streets of Iringa, and a common reason is family disputes or abuse. Here we read about two Kids who have been reunited and re-placed with their families after some time away, thanks to the hard work and counselling efforts of the Tanzanian FISCH Team.

Daud



Daud was born in 2007 in rural village near Iringa. Unfortunately, Daud was separated from his parents and taken in by a relative. However, Daud did not feel supported to attend school and to continue education, instead put under pressure to prioritise staying at home to help raise the other children in the family. As a result of the dispute, he left home and came to the city of Iringa, but ended up living on the Streets for several months. In July last year, he came along to the Drop-in-Centre for breakfast, where he was registered. After counselling with the Team, he showed a willingness to return home. Communications with some other relatives ensued, and they were keen to have Daud back home. We are pleased to share that in May of this year, Daud moved back home in with his grandparents, who were very pleased to have him!

Baraka

Baraka was born in 2005 in a town in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania on the Dar-to-Malawi highway. He lived with his father and stepmother who ran a small business. However sadly the dynamics within the family became difficult for Baraka, and he ran away. He lived in the streets for almost a year and came to Iringa with the hope of finding paid work. He was unlucky in this and continued to live on the Streets. In March this year, he came along to the Drop-in-Centre for breakfast with another Child that he'd developed a friendship with. He was registered at FISCH and after chatting to the Team and being counselled, demonstrated an interest in school and education. Consequently he stayed at the Centre and joined a school. His performance was very good, and he was advised to join one of the vocational schools. At the same time, the FISCH Team were able to reconnect Baraka with his family in Makambako, and his father was keen to see him home. In May this year, Baraka moved back to his hometown, and is interested in completing some vocational training to become a mechanic.



Left:
Daud (right)
back with his
grandparents

Right
Baraka back
home again





Snapshot

Clockwise from bottom left:

- Meals at Easter
- Gathering at Easter
- Food Parcel collection
- FISCH Garden (spinach)
- Sewing Club garments



Want to Get Involved But Not Sure How?



If you fancy getting involved with FISCH, there are many ways you can do so!

- ❖ You could **pray for us!** You might pray about anything you have read about in the FISCH Food, or you can join the monthly Zoom prayer session with Luke and some of the Team (see above). We'd love for you to become a Prayer Warrior on behalf of FISCH.
- ❖ You could **fundraise for us!** If you're a whizz at baking and you fancy doing a cake sale, or you fancy doing some bizarre sponsored event, go for it! We'd then also want to find out more about your fundraiser and include it in the following edition of the FISCH Food.
- ❖ You could **spread the word and raise awareness** about FISCH. Awareness of FISCH spreads through word of mouth in the UK, and with folk visiting the Drop-in-Centre in Iringa and seeing the work that goes on there. We don't advertise what we do. If you'd like to share the efforts and good work that FISCH undertakes to help the Street Kids of Iringa live life to the full, then you could share this newsletter, our website address, or invite one of the Team to come and do a talk at your church, school, society, club, etc.
- ❖ You could **donate!** This can be done in many ways. You could give a one-off donation, or you contribute a regular gift each month. It can be as little as you want (it's less than £1 to provide a meal for a Street Child) or you can gift more. You could donate to general funds, and the money will be used wherever there is the greatest need; or, if you'd rather know exactly where your gift is going, to a specific cause, such as FISCH United, the Short-Term-Accommodation, or the Education Fund. We also have the Food Parcel Sponsorship Scheme running if you would like to sponsor a named Street Child and their family, and receive a personal update from that Child twice a year.
- ❖ You could **visit the Project!** If you're passing through Iringa then please do get in touch. You'd receive a warm welcome ("karibu!") from the Team and Kids and you would be able to witness the love of Jesus in action as we seek to serve and love the Street Kids in all their needs.

If you can think of another way that you could support FISCH, please email office@gofisch.org and let us know how you'd like to help!



He said to them; "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." – Mark 16:15

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