



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



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Welcome to the Summer edition of FISCH Food!

In the UK there's been a lot of change and uncertainty recently; a change of government following a general election, variable weather, and, *will England make it to the Euros 2024 final!?* Well, whatever happens, God is still the same, and the great work going on in Iringa continues. Whether it's providing a meal for a Street Kid, helping them with their homework, reconciling them to family, or giving them a safe bed to sleep in, it is all done with the love of Christ. This is God's project, seeking to love and serve the Street Children, and we are honoured to be part of that! Thank you for also being part of this adventure. Asante sana!



Easter at FISCH



Each year the Drop-in-Centre hosts an Easter service and celebration, with FISCH Church in full swing. The DiC packs out with the Team, the Children, the Children's families, and locals who call FISCH Church home. A huge meal was shared with all, and everyone had a fabulous time celebrating Jesus, the risen Lord!



International Women's Day

Each year on 8th March, around the world people celebrate women! Tanzania was no exception, with women celebrating and marching around the Streets of Iringa. Our fabulous female Tanzanian Team Members took part in the walks, sharing the great work of FISCH with the other women in the community. Here we can see Agnes, Winnie, Eva, Emiliana and Lucy all out taking part in the International Women's Day.

NEW\$FLASH: The New District Commissioner for Iringa Congratulates FISCH for its Excellent Service

Recently the **Honourable Iringa District Head**, Comred James, congratulated FISCH “**for the great and good work done by the Centre for the care of children living in difficult environments,**” according to his Instagram page!

Comred James spoke on the activities running at FISCH, particularly **distribution of food to families** of Children living in difficult circumstances, and states that every child in the community deserves a good education and all the basic services so that they can grow and flourish. “Therefore”, he said, “**the work done by FISCH to provide education, upbringing and basic needs of these Children deserves to be supported.**”

Comred James then helped with the distribution of the Food Parcels to the parents of sponsored Children, and asked the parents to help monitor the Children’s progress at school, and to encourage good co-operation with the FISCH Team.

Among other things, the Honourable Head also asked the local community to build a **culture of supporting** the effort of social institutions such as FISCH, in terms of money and resources, in order to increase the help offered to the Children, so that they would have better lives.

What a positive visit from the District Commissioner!





The Learning Centre



At FISCH, once a Child has been registered and their situation has stabilised, we work with the Child to encourage them to **start or renew their education**. This could be through vocational training, but it is often through school. In Tanzania government education in the early years is free from school fees; however, there are **hidden barriers** for many Children living close to the poverty line. These include the cost of uniforms, school shoes, exercise books, textbooks, and even pens and pencils.

Recently the Team have been focusing on the Children living at the Short-Term Accommodation (STA), providing them with a daily learning structure and knowledge as they prepare for the next stage of their journey, whether that be schooling, vocational training or simply reuniting with family. These Children are particularly vulnerable, so this is a great way to focus on this group of Children with no other support to rely upon.

Here you can see the Children utilising the Learning Centre, enjoying studying together and giving themselves **better opportunities in life**.



African Child Day

Each year on June 16th, Tanzania and other countries in the African Union celebrate **The Day of the African Child**. It is held to commemorate the **student uprising in Soweto**, 1976. At that time, students marched protesting the poor-quality education they received, and demanding to be taught in their own languages, not in Afrikaans, in apartheid South Africa. During the protest, tragically **hundreds of school children were killed**. The Day of the African Child is celebrated to **remember these children** and the brave actions they took to defend their rights, and to inspire a **sober reflection** on the challenges that children face in Africa on a daily basis.

The Children and Team at FISCH joined in with the **public parades and walks** to celebrate African Child Day, promoting and supporting **children's rights and welfare** across the continent. The Children had a lot of fun during the walk through the Streets of Iringa.



Food Parcel Sponsorship Scheme – Co-ordinator Handover

Our Food Parcel Scheme started running over 6 years ago and in that time we have supported over 70 Children with regular monthly food parcels of **maize flour, beans, rice, sugar and oil** (for £24.50 per month – check out gofisch.org/food-parcel-sponsorship for more info.) Not only do the Children benefit from regular reliable nutrition, but the **Child's family are also blessed**. With a daily decent meal, both Children and family are freer to concentrate on education or work.

A Food Parcel is quite a **personal way of supporting** a Child at FISCH. Our Sponsors are partnered with a Child in need of food support, and each Sponsor knows that their financial contribution is specifically supporting that Child and family. Twice a year the Sponsor receives an update from the Team at FISCH, detailing how their sponsored Child is getting on, and sometimes with a message from the Child themselves. All this co-ordination takes effort, and the Food Parcel Sponsorship Programme has been faithfully helmed by one of our long-standing FISCH UK Team members, **Sarah Maguire**.

Sarah and her husband Roy visited the Project for the first time in 2012, returning several years later for a second visit, but since that first trip she has been involved with FISCH and volunteered to oversee the Scheme. Through this time Sarah has **liaised with the FISCH Team, collated reports** on the Children and also **liaised with our Supporters**, keeping them informed and in the loop when things changed, such as when the currency exchange rates affected what we could purchase for the Kids in the packages, or when a Child was (fantastically!) no longer in need of a Food Parcel, becoming self-supporting through the ministrations of FISCH.

We now share that **Sarah is stepping down from her role** as Food Parcel Co-Ordinator after many years of faithfully serving the Children of FISCH, the Sponsors around the world, and of course, God Himself.

It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that we would like to say a huge and public **Thank you!** to Sarah, and we are pleased to know that she will be staying part of the greater FISCH Family as a Trustee of the Charity.

With this being said, it is time to introduce the new Co-Ordinator who will be taking over from Sarah Maguire... **Sarah Farrah!** Sarah F has a passion for Africa, and has visited several countries in East Africa in various mission trips. She also visited the Project back in 2012 and witnessed FISCH in action, and is now joining the Team to oversee the continuing great work of the Food Parcel Sponsorship Scheme.

Sarah M, we salute you. Sarah F, we welcome you!



Vocational Training Update

The Vocational Training Scheme is running nicely! For some Children, classroom education is not the best way forward for them. Many Children prefer instead to **learn a trade on the job**, and so for these Kids we try to provide a vocational education for them. Examples of courses that have been studied include Motor Mechanics, Hairdressing and Beauty, Driving skills, Sofa-making, Carpentry and Welding, among others.

As more Children are choosing to follow the Vocational path, we are looking to develop **more support** for these young men and women. To this end Liz of the UK Team is developing a pool of Sponsors who help to support the Vocational Training Students through financial support.

Currently, we have **20 Students** who are on various vocational courses who live with families or in the FISCH Short-Term Accommodation, and **7 Students** who have completed their course and are in the process of moving into paid work, or are already employed.

Whilst on their courses, the FISCH Team in Iringa keep in touch with the Students to see how they are progressing and help them with any challenges. Once the course has been completed the Team work with the Students **to seek employment**, helping with **online job searches, CV production, applications** and preparation for **job interviews**. Some Students seek help with setting up their own small enterprises which FISCH considers based on approval of a business plan, although funds are limited in this area – however, we have had success with Neto, whom you may remember from a previous FISCH Food edition (Summer 2022). If you or any organisation you are involved with is interested in **joining this pool of Vocational Sponsors**, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Lizzzee.murphy@gmail.com. Many thanks!



Giving Platform Change

Stewardship

For the last few years we have utilised Enthuse as our easy-access giving platform (although we always welcome a direct bank transfer/standing order, as it eradicates any fees charged!). Recently we have changed to **Stewardship**, a Christian organisation that is dedicated to supporting churches and Christian charities. We now have a profile on that website, so if you are wanting to make a donation towards FISCH, Stewardship is a straight-forward place to start! Just search for "FISCH" in the search bar at **stewardship.org.uk**.



Safely Home

Recently one of our FISCH Children Alice* **was taken** by her wider family to a city 10 hours away and **forced into working for no pay** with the false promise of private education. This is child slavery! However, thanks to the hard work of the **FISCH Team** and the **Iringa police**, she was able to return home to her grandmother in Iringa, safe. There has been a lot of prayer for this young women on the part of those who support her, as well as members of the Teams. **We are so grateful to God for this good news.**

**some details have been changed to protect identities*





Join the Adventure!

If you have enjoyed reading about the work of FISCH, **you are welcome to get involved!** You can fundraise, pray for the Project, raise awareness, or donate. We'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at office@gofisch.org, or, check out gofisch.org.
Asante sana!



More Visitations

Recently the Drop-in-Centre has played host to several visits from other organisations, coming to meet the Children and Team, and to work with the Children or bless them in some way.

Young Life Africa – their mission is to introduce young people to Jesus, and to help them grow in their faith. A member of YLA joined the Children, having affirming conversations, holding discussions and generally having a nice social time.

African Genius – an NGO that seeks to educate young people in Africa and promote good health. They blessed the Children with small gifts of toothpaste and brushes.

The District Commissioner – OCD Hon Bernard Samara came to give a talk to the Children about their rights in society.



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up – Galatians 6:9

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