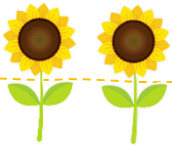




TO WITNESS THE LOVE OF  
JESUS CHRIST TO THE  
STREET CHILDREN  
OF IRINGA BY STRIVING TO  
MEET THEIR NEEDS  
THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE  
LIFE IN ALL ITS  
GOODNESS

## Welcome to the Summer edition of FISCH Food!

Have you been enjoying the alternate heatwaves and rainstorms? The weather may be variable in the UK, but one thing is for sure – God's goodness. This edition of the FISCH Food is packed full of positive updates and news items from Iringa and we love to share these with you. If you are a Supporter or Friend of FISCH, if you cover FISCH in prayer or give financially each month, we want you to have your finger on the pulse and know exactly what's going on. So, let's get to the heartbeat of FISCH and hear all the great news we have to share with you!



## Sewing Club Update



The daily sewing training continues to grow, now with **9 dedicated Students**, a mix of boys and girls. The Club have been **making and repairing uniforms** for any FISCH Children as well as **face masks** for the FISCH community. Their teacher Eva also set them the challenge of designing their own uniforms, and some for the FISCH Choir group.

Up until now, the nine Students share five sewing machines, but thanks to generous support from an individual in the UK we are now able to **purchase an additional five machines** to take our total to ten. (Thank you to that person – you know who you are!)

As the success of this vocational training club grows, we are considering how we can best help these Students to **set up business when they graduate**. FISCH has already supported a number of Children to do this over the years, and we are researching whether we could rent retail space to do this on a larger scale in the future. Watch this space for further updates later in the year!



*Above: one of the Sewing Club Students working hard*  
*Right: The FISCH Choir show off their new bespoke uniforms*



## COVID-19 Impact Update

We have continued to **closely monitor** the impact C19 has been having on the community we serve in the Iringa region. Our Team have observed an increase in sickness and people suffering with flu-like symptoms, and recently sadly an increase in the number of funerals within the community; however at this stage hospitals do not appear to be overwhelmed.

The Community we serve continue to suffer from the **wider economic impact** the reduction in international tourism has had on the Tanzanian economy.

We continue to provide increased supplies of **fresh water, medical and hygiene supplies**, as well as educate the Children about **how to protect themselves** from infection. Our Sewing Club have been making face masks for use within our community.

### Welcome Bili!

Bili has recently joined the FISCH Team in Tanzania in the role of **Admin Secretary**. This is a new role that we have created to assist in delivering with **feedback and communication** from the Team in Tanzania, the need for which has grown significantly over the last few years as we grow. We really believe in providing feedback and updates from the Project as much as possible, so people can see the **results of their prayers, support and financial giving**. Bili has also been responsible for taking many of the high quality photographs that you may have seen in our feedback or social media channels.

Sadly Bili will only be with us a short time while he waits to begin his University course, but we are delighted to have him with us nonetheless!




*Left:  
Welcome  
Bili!*

*Right and  
Below: some  
of the  
beneficiaries  
of the Food  
Parcel  
Scheme*



### Food Parcel Sponsorship Programme: An Update from Sarah

“What a joy it has been to see a growing number of Children coming off the waiting list and being supported with a **monthly Food Parcel**. We currently have **42 Children** being supported in this way, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Over a period of time, we see Children growing up and thriving because they are **no longer going hungry** and **they are able to focus on their education**. As the co-ordinator for the programme, I have the privilege of seeing the big picture and I’ve been deeply impacted by the genuine hard work and commitment shown by many Children who are doing really well at school and going on to college and university and are on their way to fulfilling their dreams. A number of young men and women have gone onto Vocational Training and then have started their own business, arriving at a point where they become **self-sufficient** and no longer need support from FISCH in this particular way. Of course, the Tanzanian Team are a vital part of each Child’s journey; working hard to **distribute food, check on the family’s situation and wellbeing** and **providing counselling** for those who may be struggling in school or with family relationships.

 It costs **£19.50** a month to change a Child’s life forever by providing basic food for them and their families. If you would like to be a part, please contact me on: [sarah@onething.org.uk](mailto:sarah@onething.org.uk). **Thank you.**”



## Drop-in-Centre: Building Progress

Building work recently began on the kitchens, dining area and additional toilets at the new Drop-in-Centre (DiC) site. The Team are very excited to see this and when completed, it will enable the transfer of our daily Breakfast Club and weekly Saturday Feeding Project to the new Centre. Here are some photos from the building site.



## Uniform & Stationery

Regular readers will recall that every year we try to provide **uniform and stationery** for Children registered at FISCH who cannot afford these essential items. Without them they would be **denied access to government schools**, and last year over **300 Kids** were supported in this way.

In Tanzania the school year begins in January. Our target to provide these items again this year is £7,000, and so far we have received donations for about **40%** of this target. We are still seeking further support for this, and if you have connections to schools or organisations who may like to **partner** with FISCH, or if you yourself would like to contribute please do get in touch. Thanks!



## 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 we concluded that the best way to support him would perhaps be through **education**. He has always been an **involved member** in the FISCH Church so through that he fitted well into the **Bible School**, where he went to study. Since then he has settled well in the school and continues to be a **valuable contributor** to FISCH Church.



Right: Emmanuel leading the worship service at FISCH Church, supported by Rev Mote (on the left)





## Clarence and FISCH Zanzibar

You may remember from our last newsletter about Clarence (see right). He was the **very first Street Child** that FISCH helped way back in **2007** and is now living and working in Zanzibar. We shared that Clarence, inspired by his own experiences and the help he received, has been **independently helping vulnerable Children from his community**.

We have been considering whether FISCH could support Clarence to build something more structured, and effectively open a **branch of FISCH in Zanzibar**. In the past couple of months Mote (who leads FISCH Trust in Tanzania) visited Zanzibar to assess the situation. His visit confirmed that there are a number of Children living in **very poor circumstances** on the island. Many families are struggling for food, and **Children turn to the beaches to beg**. Just like in Iringa, there is also a real need for education, with many Children dropping out of school due to lack of basics such as uniform and stationery.

Clarence has a big heart for these Children, and has already been doing a lot to encourage and support them. We are now assessing how much it would cost to run a **Saturday Feeding Project** for the Children within this community, with the intention of gradually introducing different **programs of support** for these Children as funds become available.

This is a very exciting opportunity, and **we would really value your support and prayer in this**. If you would like more information specifically about how you can support this new venture or get involved, please email [rich@gofisch.org](mailto:rich@gofisch.org).



## FISCH Church

FISCH Church is held in the courtyard at the DiC and continues to thrive. Here are some photos of recent services!



## Vocational Training

As well as providing our own Sewing training at the FISCH Centre, we also support a number of Children into **vocational training**. This is a **key area of provision** for many of our Kids, for whom Higher Education is not an option and the mainstream schooling has no longer become appropriate. These short courses include Carpentry, Mechanics and Driving, among others.

Over the years we have seen many young adults in the FISCH community **gain skills** in this way and become financially independent.

So far this year FISCH has supported **9 Children** to start these courses, and we anticipate a further 3 Children to begin courses this quarter. The cost of training typically costs between £100 - £250 per course.

This is an area of our ministry that we would love to grow our regular funding for, since at present it depends upon the availability of one-off donations. Feel free to contact us if you're interested in getting involved.



## Simon's No Shave New Year Resolution Challenge

You may recall from our Jan 2021 Food Edition that Simon, one of our UK Team members, has taken up an interesting New Years Resolution to fundraise for FISCH – he is **refraining from shaving his beard for a whole year!** Here we ask a few questions to find out how he is getting on...

What was the inspiration for your NY resolution to grow a beard as your fundraiser of choice?  
*I figured what easier way to have a conversion starter than literally changing my face.*

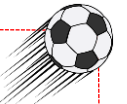
What's been the most challenging aspect of this so far?  
*Constant name calling, from Abraham from the Bible, to a member of the Taliban...*

Any surprising benefits to having this luxurious beard?  
*I have had a few people admire it! That's been fun.*

How's the fundraising going?  
*I have achieved the goal I set. I am trying to do more.*

Are you looking forward to the big trim on New Year's Day?  
*Actually, I don't know. I may keep it. I have become fond of touching it and pretending I am able to ponder the tougher questions of life.*





## FISCH Utd

Our football team have joined a **district footie league** and they have been in training to make sure they are at the top of their game. All the lads took part in a **training camp** which really went a long way in improving the Team in spirit and skill. The League kicked off on the 30<sup>th</sup> July and is comprised of about six teams, who will all play each other, and the resulting two teams with the highest points will go against each other in the **finale**. The district winner will then go on to face other teams from other regions.

Here you can see some photos of the Team training and playing in their **new red and white kit**.

**Go FISCH Utd!**



## African Child Day Celebrations

Every **16<sup>th</sup> June** African Child Day is celebrated, to commemorate the **Soweto Uprising** which happened on this date in 1976. In Apartheid South Africa black school children led a demonstration to show their discontent to having Afrikaans introduced as a medium of instruction in local schools. This demonstration was met with **brutal opposition** from the State leadership; **many children were shot and killed**. Countries within the SADC (Southern Africa Development Community) **honour this day** as a reminder of 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 those rights. The Children at the Drop-in-Centre celebrated African Child Day together; *see right*.



*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news! – Isaiah 52:7*

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