

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 Autumn edition of FISCH Food!



Greetings, Friends of FISCH, we hope this newsletter finds you well. We have so much news to share with you! But before we do, please let us take the opportunity to thank you for being a Friend of FISCH, and for your prayers and support. FISCH has been operating for nearly over 14 years and it wouldn't have happened if it weren't for you folk partnering with God and the Teams to make it happen. The Children of Iringa are so so grateful, and you are making such a difference in their lives and communities. Thank you!

We hope you enjoy hearing about what's been happening over in Tanzania....

College and University Student Update

We are so proud to share this photo of our current University students. These young men and women, all of whom are registered with FISCH, have overcome a significantly tough start in life, but have grabbed hold of the opportunities that Education has given them, and are now striving to achieve a better future for themselves.

In the current academic year three FISCH Children were offered places in Further Education– Adam (History), Eunice (Forestry) and William (Electronic Engineering).

We are so thankful that 12 of our 13 students are being sponsored by FISCH supporters. We expect more to be offered places at University next summer, so if you are interested in finding out more about sponsorship for next year please contact Liz at lizzzee.murphy@gmail.com.



Top left: Best, Apollo, Aloyce, Adam, Stonney, Promina Bottom from left: Gloria, Neema, Grace, Happy, Eunice, William



Focus on: Harriet

Harriet has been with FISCH for several years, in which time she has been receiving **Food Parcels** through the sponsorship programme, and recently has completed her **tailoring training** at the FISCH Sewing Training Club. We are delighted to share that Harriet recently joined two other ex-FISCH girls (Johari and Adelina) at their Sewing business, and the three of them are now **working together making an income**. We hope that in time Harriet will be able to build up her business to become **self-sufficient and profitable**. Please do hold Harriet in your prayers.

Harriet (left) with her baby Nadia (middle), and Johari (right)

Pre Form 1 Students



We really do take education for granted here in the UK. However in Tanzania it is seen as a luxury beyond primary school. Many of the Children desperately want to go to school to get an education and better themselves and their prospects. In an effort to help more FISCH Children succeed in Secondary School, we have been hosting classes taught by our University Students and some FISCH Staff.

This is an example of FISCH Kids coming full circle - the Uni Students were once FISCH Kids with poor prospects, but they have been supported in their education journey, are studying to gain qualifications, and return to the FISCH Drop-in-Centre to help inspire and educate the next generation of FISCH Kids following in their footsteps. God is great! For those of you out there who sponsor a Uni Student - thank you. The impact and reach of your gift is bigger than you will ever fully know!







Left – The students from the Learning Centre Middle – Promina teaching

Right - class is in session!

Uniform & Stationary Fund



In Tanzania, government Primary and Secondary schools do not charge tuition fees. However, children are required to arrive wearing the correct uniform, and to provide their own stationery and exercise books.

For many of the Children FISCH helps, the cost of these items is prohibitive, and without help these Children cannot go to school. Each year we try to provide these items for the FISCH Kids. Last year we provided for almost 300 Children, and the challenge is to do the same again this year!

Our vision has been to build a base of Supporters giving monthly to this cause, so that come October the funds are already in place. Whilst we are thankful that the number of Supporters for this cause has grown this year, we were still quite a long way short of our annual target. However, God has been so good, and thanks to a number of significant one-off donations in recent weeks, we are now in a position to meet all these needs once again!

The Team in Tanzania are now busy making preparations, assessing the needs of the Children and placing orders. A number of items of uniform will be made by young adults who have qualified from the FISCH Sewing Training Club, and who are now running their own Tailoring businesses in Iringa.

The estimated cost of providing these items for one Child is £30 (Primary), £50 (Secondary). If you would like to support this cause in the future, please email rich@gofisch.org.



New Christmas Gift Option on our Website

A number of our supporters have contacted us in recent years asking if there is a method of donating **one-off gifts** to the Children at FISCH around **Christmas time**. It might be that instead of receiving a Christmas or Birthday present, you would like one of the FISCH children to receive one instead?

We have been readying this feature on our website www.gofisch.org and it is now live. Gift options will include food, clothes, shoes, mattresses and blankets. Do take a peep at our website if you'd like to find out more, and please share with your friends. They may not seem like exciting gifts to give a Child, but they will have a big impact on their lives.







This smart man pictured here (left) with Tanzanian Team Member Bili (right) is Msando, who has recently **graduated from Form IV** at Kihesa Secondary School. He attained **many distinctions** such as a tree-planting certificate, a vocational award (for tie dye skills and soapmaking) as well as volleyball and leadership certificates.

Msando has been a direct and indirect beneficiary from FISCH over the years and it is wonderful that he has this knowledge and achievements to show for his hard work and determination.

Congratulations Msando!

No-Shave Challenge

Do you remember over the course of this year we have been following Simon's No-Shave New Year's Resolution? Well, he's 10 months down, 2 to go! Here is an updated photo of the bearded wonder. We will catch up with him in the New Year in the next edition of the FISCH Food, but for updates and a chance to donate to this fundraising challenge, please check out facebook.com/spforfisch.





FISCH Choir

FISCH Church continues to be popular with FISCH Kids, families and locals alike. The FISCH Choir are on hand to provide worship and a bit of colourful flare to the service! Here you can see them resplendent in their choir uniform.





Family Reunions

Children end up living on the Streets for many reasons, and sometimes these reasons can include a difficult home situation or losing touch with family. Where possible we seek to reunite FISCH Kids with their family or a relative, so that they may know a stable homelife and family support. Where necessary the FISCH Team provide counselling or nutritional support to the family, or sometimes a FISCH Team Member will accompany a Child to a distant town or village to reunite a Child with their family. So far this year over 25 Children have been reunited with their families in a similar way.

We are pleased to share that last month two Children have been happily reunited with their families from living on the Streets in Iringa. They are **Mubarak** and **Innocent**.



Left: Muburak (centre) with his family



Right: Innocent (right) before his journey back home



FISCH Utd

The FISCH Utd football club has been running nearly as long as FISCH has – football is that popular. Not only does it encourage the lads to keep fit but also to develop a team spirit and gives them something to belong to in which they can take pride. FISCH Utd are playing in a district football league this year with other local clubs. Their first few games against Combine FC and Real MojaMoja sadly ended in defeat for FISCH; however, the recently beat Ruaha FC 3-1. Hurray!

A Long-Awaited Trip to Iringa...

Alas, UK travel restrictions have meant that **Rich Gercke**, co-founder of FISCH, had been unable to visit Iringa and the FISCH Team for nearly two years. He reports that the **Drop-in-Centre is a hive of activity**; Kids who are still sleeping rough come for **lunch** daily as well as **breakfast**, the **Sewing Training Club** meets and runs, and also the **classroom** is in full swing as well. We have *so* much good news to share from this visit – but you'll have to watch out for the next edition of the FISCH Food to find out more!





Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. – James 5:7b

