The cold pandemic has seen the warm heart

The virus still spreads and life has not been easy for the global economy to sustain. Countries all around have implemented various policies to prevent the pandemic from further infecting citizens. Closing borders, canceling social activities and reducing gatherings are basic strategies to enhance a Covid-safe plan. During the Christmas and New Year holidays this year the ACC campus in Malawi felt a sense of warmth and comfort. The children who graduated from vulnerable children boarding schools at the shelter center campus to start work in society, bought juice and biscuits for their younger brothers and sisters in the campus and had donated some of their own salaries. This warm gesture has given the center’s children bright smiles and allows our shelter campus to feel proud. The children have really grown up. This is also the concept that the founder Master Huili and sponsors around the world have tried to pass on to all vulnerable children helped through ACC.

The part of Africa you don’t know [Africa’s New Year’s Eve]

The treacherous year of 2020 is ending and the long-awaited New Year’s Eve activities are ready to start.

Many countries around the world has set January 1st as New Year’s Day but on the vast African continent because of the different seasons, climate, history, culture, religious beliefs and ethnic habits, there is no unified New Year’s in various African countries.

The New Year in African countries is usually related to religion, so, many African countries that believe in Islam have traditionally celebrated the New Year according to Islam culture. For example, the New Year’s date in North Africa is relatively uniform, while other African countries other than North African Countries have different New Year’s date due to different religious beliefs. The New Year Day of the Islamic calendar that is January 1st of the Hijri calendar. Muslims in some countries and regions will celebrate, but for most Muslims this holiday is just an ordinary day. Therefore, the New Year in the Islamic calendar is very low-key and plain. However, under the influence of Chinese people living in the local areas, the term New Year has begun to be used in recent years, but when used the Muslim usually are referring to the grandest festival in Islam, “Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha” rather than the New Year’s Day in the Hijri calendar. In ACC Africa, because the New Year’s Eve coincides with the children’s summer vacation, there is no special celebration in the campus. After they return to school they will celebrate the Lunar New Year with the volunteers.

In 1992, Venerable Huili embarked on a journey to Africa. He established the first “Amitofo Care Center” (ACC) in Malawi during 2004, dedicated to caring for African vulnerable children and where more than 85% of world’s HIV-positive children live. Today, many years later, the founder continues with his compassionate practice of Buddhism in Africa traveling to all corners of Africa, and helping countless precious young lives. Nowadays, he is known as the “African monk” or “Monk dad” in the eyes of thousands of children.