

普賢銀行

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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.



ACC Yuanjue School in Namibia reopens after Coronavirus nationwide lockdown

After a holiday period consisting of a month, the children finally returned to the campus near the end of January. After the observation period of seven days, we analyzed that the children were in good health so the school officially started on February 3rd!

At 6am on the first day of school, the dean invited the children to the Prayer hall to help them calm down by sitting in mindful practice. Reminding the children to learn the attitudes they should have such as attention, patience, confidence, gratitude, and love. Many children remember these five well. The dean also encouraged all the students to seize the opportunity of receiving education to study seriously. This is their current responsibility to achieve their life goals in the future, especially English, Mathematics, Chinese, and Sciences.

One of the most important foundations of mathematics would be the multiplication table, after the holidays many forgot it. Usually, they would recite their times tables till it sticks to their memories. The dean's mother memorized it when she was a child, and she still remembers it. For the children in the middle and higher grades, the dean also reminded them that when their fifth grade brothers and sisters grow up, they must learn to manage themselves by getting up, folding their quilt every morning, and to clean up their rooms and environment. And the fourth graders help the nanny to take care of the younger siblings.

At 7:15am, the children put on uniforms and go to school with their schoolbags on their backs. On the first day of school, the principal diligently encouraged the children to study hard, wash their hands frequently and to pay attention to cleanliness and hygiene at all times. The lush weeds on the old and new campuses flourished when no one was there to look after them, the teachers asked the children to tidy up the environment together as a collaborative community, using a hoe, shovel and hands to weed bit by bit like ant groups. In less than the period of two days, the campuses were cleaned up. The principal of Yuanjue School had carefully planted flowers last year and after a rainy season, the flowers were in full bloom, hoping to nurture the children to grow wisdom flowers in their hearts and minds.

Traditional food that is harvested after the rain

Five years ago, a teacher "Fan yazhu" planted a Roselle flower for the children shelter campus. After he planted willows, he learned that The Roselle flower is one of the traditional foods in the northern part of Namibia. These seeds have been growing endlessly, and they have grown spontaneously after the rainy season for so many years with no interruption. Thanks to Teacher Fan, we have the predecessors planting trees for the future generations to enjoy the coolness of the environment!

After a month of rain, the Roselle grew very well. On a Sunday morning, several senior staff helped to harvest the leaves, but today's amount was not enough for 200 people (including adults and children), so it would take some time to cook a meal for everyone with the leaves. When cooking, they added water to boil the leaves to thicken them and afterwards you season the leaves with some salt! The sour taste pairs well to eat with corn paste and the dish is a traditional delicacy loved by children!

This year, the fifth graders will arrange agricultural classes. I hope they can learn a skill and contribute to the development of agriculture in Namibia in the future!

Roselle is a national beverage in many countries in Africa and there are many opinions about its origin. However, many new production areas in Africa, such as Gambia, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda, as well as South India and the Caribbean, are producing the output of Roselle.

