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Editor’s note

vulnerable kids under our care nickname prefixes;

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Before school starts, children should be brought back to school one after another. Some children live close by and take about 1-2 hours by car, while some take 7-8 hours. And my task is to send the children back to school from the North District safely. This is my first trip to the North District. The day before the business trip, we had a pre-departure meeting. The most important issue for the 7-8 hour journey was how to go to the toilet.

On the day of departure, the morning temperature in the courtyard was four degrees. Along the road was the scenery of golden grassland on both sides, and the long road ahead never stops. Gradually a group of baboon shuttles emerge between the roads. Sheep, deer... and the warthog "Pumba" in the cartoon Lion King do too. In Africa, everyday is a sunny day. We departed from the courtyard at 8:30 in the morning and arrived at the hotel at 4:30 in the afternoon. We drove for a full eight hours. Fortunately, there was a gas station on the way, but the distance was relatively far.

The children appeared one after another, and each babysitter took their temperature and confirmed the condition of the child at home with their parents.

While I was waiting, I asked the students: Do you remember how to say in Chinese? ; What is your name? What grade are you in? What do you have in your schoolbag? Some kids were very cute and told me many brands of cookies. But couldn’t speak the Chinese for "biscuits". Some asked me about fruit juice: How do I pronounce this? Some brought snacks and candy for me.
After that, I walked to another group of younger children, because the waiting time was long. There was a six-year-old child named "Yiguang" who fell asleep on his mother's lap. His mother had to rush back to the tribe, so as soon as he was in his deep sleep, he was changed to sleep on the lap of the nanny.

Not long after, I heard a cry. He had woken up and found that his mother had left. He cried for a long time, about 1-2 hours, and clamored for the ride home. Finally, the babysitter took out some change from the bag and he stopped crying with the money in his bare hands. I think the nanny really is amazing!

Finally, the driver arrived at two o'clock in the afternoon. The children lined up and got on the car. In the car, the children shared food with each other. Perhaps Africa is really poor, but Africans are not stingy. Even if a schoolbag only has a bag of biscuits, they still will be Willing to share with everyone.

Seeing the children return to campus, I began to look forward to my Chinese class!
From February to March this year, due to the outbreak of the pandemic, more than 160 countries around the world announced the suspension of classes. About 1.5 billion students were unable to go to school, including Namibia, which also began to close on March 16. At the present time, many countries are still in the state of suspension of classes. Even if the pandemic breaks out and has a lockdown again after the resumption of classes, the beginning of school has become a difficult question. Does school start? When is the schooling started? How to start the schooling? How to prevent the pandemic from being successful at school? How to deal with the infection situation?

The preparations before the start of school let everyone to refresh their brains and collect information from all parties. In addition to referring to the local Ministry of Education’s pandemic prevention guidelines, under the brainstorming of the team, many pandemic prevention policies and procedures were listed as the content of staff training before the school started. From traffic arrangements, temperature measurement, disinfection, wearing masks, etc., we try our best to be drip-proof. As soon as the children return to the dormitory, they take a bath and change clothes, and all backpack clothes are washed, disinfected, and sun-dried. Everyone uses a fixed number of tableware and cleans the tableware by themselves. After the two-week observation period, taking everyone’s temperature twice a day to see if there is any health conditions, and then the school will officially start in July.

Not long after school started, at the end of July, the President of the country again announced that classes below the ninth grade (junior high school) will be suspended for one month from August 4th. However, most schools across the country still insist on continuing to open school, and some schools cannot provide safe epidemic prevention due to poor conditions. With the consent of the parents and guardians, the children continue to attend classes in the school, reducing the burden on many poor families. Children who cannot go to school can only run around at home or on the street every day, and the extended problems are even more unpredictable. In fact, no matter how you do it, there will be both good and bad. From national leaders to families and individuals, it is always full of challenges and helplessness. This pandemic is testing human nature and wisdom. Nothing can be planned and only one step can be taken. It is a step, and mutual understanding and consideration are needed at this time.

And it is really a blessing for children to be able to read in a safe and happy environment.
Wisdom is the basic condition of goodwill  
Contributor: ACC Taiwan

This summer, the thunder is loud and the rain drops very little.

In the afternoon, it was cloudy outside, the air was stuffy, the rain never started, and the heart felt clenched.

WanMu, who is preparing to take the nursing license exam on August 1, sat at my seat and concentrated on studying. WanXiang, who had already graduated, went to the school to find summer students during the free time. WanPa and WanEn went to the hospital for an internship.

At noon, Wanxiang and Wanmu had lunch together at home. I asked the children: What do you think about the ACC documentary broadcast on PTV last week?

The children were reluctant to let go of the harm to ACC by the content of the messages posted on PTV’s Facebook, and wonder why anyone would understand it this way? Because they came to ACC from a difficult environment for survival nearly 20 years ago, it is a rare happiness for children to have free meals and be able to attend school. They can even study abroad for university in China and once they graduate they can return home.

But, after all, people who make documentaries and watch movies do not come from that environmental background, because we live in a free and democratic Taiwan that has no living difficulties, has been colonized, authoritarian, and is now free and democratic. Therefore, the angle of understanding is completely lost of the link to the reality of Malawi.
The ACC (Amitofo Care Centre), which has been working hard to give children a home for nearly two decades, really needs to revise and reflect, because in the process of groping for the best for children, the founder who had grown up in Taiwan’s poverty era, is pure and kind and only wholeheartedly hopes that the child will have a future and use his own experience. The best way to give children, ignoring cultural differences, as more and more capitalists enter Africa, the improvement of the African economy and the change of consciousness, we really need to adjust our thinking.

Those who write comments are not necessarily malicious, but lack the flexible understanding of time and space. In 2003, in Malawi, where disease and poverty was rampant, the health of one or two hundred children was extremely important to reduce medical expenditures. Therefore, I thought of letting children practice martial arts to strengthen their health, and the children volunteered to participate. Although it was hard, I did not expect that because of the children’s yearning for martial arts, they developed interest and results. They were often invited to perform in some activities in the local area.

It was difficult to raise funds. In this case, the intention is to organize a tour to raise funds.

Five years ago, when the children graduated from high school, ACC “wholeheartedly” cultivated talents for the undeveloped country of Malawi. Therefore, I hope that the children will study abroad and reserve talents for the future of their country. Kaohsiung ACC ushered in three nursing students and one student. With the four girls who speak Mandarin, I became the mother who accompanied them to study and transition.

Over the past four years, I watched my children go from being shy to confident and preparing to return home from China. During this period, I was temporarily staying in Taiwan because of the pandemic. I joked and told the children: Some people say that you are hostages of ACC. The children were even more shocked...

But when I was seventeen years old, I also grew up because of my poor family and received support from Christian institutions in Western countries. Every night we read the Bible, pray for three meals, and go to church on holidays...

In the era of multiculturalism, the information is more diverse. While questioning, we retain a good understanding. When moving time and space, the unit and organization must reflect on and learn from the insufficiency. We also humbly accept and listen.

Cultivation of thinking ability requires the wisdom of seeing the truth in addition to criticism. No one should let themselves wander and trap for a lifetime in order to control others.
On the afternoon of July 25, 2020, the "ACC Family Day" was held on the second floor of the Association. It was co-chaired by Ms. Sherry Chen, CEO of the African Executive Committee and Secretary-General Vincent Lin. In particular, Director Ms. Su Hantsao (the initiator of providing living expenses for international students in Taiwan), Ms. Yin Xiangzen, the current principal of ACC Yuantong School in Malawi, and Director Li Wenzhong of ACC Taipei ACC invited to come.

Sherry said that when she first went to Africa alone, she had to rely on her own process to encourage her children: You can overcome difficulties and put on academic uniforms. You are all heroes in my mind. Vincent also encourages everyone to use his influence to help more people. And Ms. Su’s saying moved us all: watching the children grow up and mature all the way, they have all graduated from college now! I wish the children to give full play to their strengths and have a bright future! Principal Yin encourages the children to return home after graduation and help their country.

Six of Malawi’s second group of children who came to Taiwan to study at university in 2015 graduated successfully this year, and six of them were postponed. It is not easy for foreign students to come to Taiwan to study at university and graduate successfully, but the children of ACC did it hard!

Today is a large gathering of international students from all over Taiwan. A total of 18 international students came, including this year’s university graduates, and some freshmen who came to Taiwan last year. The "ACC Family Day" party has the meaning of handing over. In addition to gratitude, children are endlessly grateful! The graduates talked about everything they learned in Taiwan. And the current students also warmly wish their brothers and sisters: Happy graduation!

One session and one meeting, next time you meet again, some of you may have already flown back to Malawi to serve you. Please say goodbye to each other here! Blessing everyone: keep growing every day, do as you wish!
Dear sponsor parents

Thank you for your support and encouragement. Even young vulnerable children with two snots hanging when upon arrival were given opportunities to grow into bright young women and men under protected and safe environment.

Although every child has different personalities and different goals, from all the worldwide donations given this force drives the children to be better and ACC to be better.