

淨土



淨土通訊 Pure Land Newsletter

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淨土念佛堂、圖書館

Pure Land Center & Buddhist Library

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印光大師法語—學佛人首先要打好做人的基礎

Quote from Great Master Yinguang — A Buddhist Should First Build the Foundation of Being a Good Person

至於學佛一事，原須克盡人道，方可趣向。若於孝悌忠信、禮義廉恥等事，一不實踐，雖終日奉佛，佛豈佑之哉？良以佛教該世出世間一切諸法，故於父言慈，於子言孝，各令盡其人道之分，然後修出世之法。譬如欲修萬丈高樓，必先堅築地基，開通水道，則萬丈高樓，方可增修，且可永久不壞。若或地基不堅，必至未成而壞。語云，選忠臣孝子之門，學佛者亦復如是。昔白居易問鳥窠禪師，曰如何是佛法大意？師曰，諸惡莫作，眾善奉行。

To practice Buddhism, one must fulfill the responsibilities of a human being. Doing so, one will be progressing in the correct direction. If one has not realized the eight virtues of filial piety, fraternal love, loyalty, trustworthiness, courtesy, justice, integrity, and honor, then even if one appears to be practicing Buddhism all the time, how could Buddhas help the person? Buddhism covers both monastic rules and worldly rules. Therefore, parents will be kind to their children, children will be filial to their parents, and everyone will live up to one's responsibilities. Then, one can cultivate monastic virtues. This is akin to constructing a high-rise building where one starts by building a good foundation. The building can then be successfully constructed and will last a long time. If the foundation is weak, the construction will fail before its completion. It is commonly said that a loyal person must be a filial child. The same applies to being a good Buddhist. Once, the poet Juyi Bai asked Zen Master Niaoke about the essence of Buddhism. The master replied, "Refrain from committing any evil and do all that is good."

中元祭祖法會公告

Announcement — Ceremony to Pay Respect to Our Ancestors on Zhong-yuan Festival

● 本館編輯室 (Editor's Room)

本館今年秋季中元祭祖法會將於八月二十四日(星期日)供佛之日下午二時二十分至三時三十五分舉行，歡迎同修前來參加。

因適逢中元，本館此次供佛及祭祖法會仍將提供參加者為親人及累劫冤親債主設立消災祈福及超度牌位。

請至本館領取或至本館網頁下載牌位申請表填寫，牌位申請截止日期為八月十六日，逾期恕難處理，敬請諒解。

This year, the Center will hold the autumn (Zhong-yuan Festival) Ceremony of Paying Respect to Ancestors on August 24 (Sunday). The ceremony will be from 2:20pm to 3:35pm. We cordially welcome everyone to join.

Because it will be during the Zhong-yuan Festival, the Center will accept requests from the participants to set up plaques for transferring merits to their loved ones, alive or deceased.

Participants can stop by the Center to obtain the application form or download it from the Center's website. The applications must be received by August 16, 2013. Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated.

This service is free; donations are always welcomed.

中元祭祖法會日程表—八月二十四日(星期日)	
09:30 – 11:00	佛堂早課 – Morning Practice
11:00 – 12:00	供 佛 – Offering to the Buddha Ceremony
12:10 – 13:00	午 齋 – Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	午間學佛講座—觀無量壽佛經 (林館長) Dharma Lecture on <i>Visualizing Infinite Life Buddha Sutra</i> by Director Lin
	個人英文學佛問答 (悟琳法師) (需先報名) Individual meetings with Venerable Wuling (registration required)
14:00 – 14:20	休 息、三 皈 依 (需先報名) Ceremony of Taking the Three Refuges conducted by Venerable Wuling (registration required)
14:20 – 15:35	祭祖典禮 Ceremony of Paying Respect to Ancestors

活動報導——2014 台灣愛飛揚

Activity Report—Goodwill Mission 2014-From Taiwan with Love in Africa

● 本館編輯室 (Editor's Room)

由本館協辦的 2014 台灣愛飛揚 非洲孤兒巡迴表演，在芝加哥的一場表演已於 7 月 24 日圓滿完成。

此次在芝加哥的表演是由慧禮法師及阿彌陀佛關懷中心 (ACC) 的 6 位大德帶領 12 位院童前來演出。本館因從頭參與籌備，早已做好萬全的準備。7/24 一早，林館長、譚副館長與十

多位佛堂的義工及小朋友陪同來訪的嘉賓前往芝城西郊著名的 Cantigny Park 參訪，院童們紛紛爬上坦克車，玩得非常高興，也都到戰爭博物館體驗模擬的戰地情況。

中午由二十多位義工接待來訪的嘉賓在佛堂享用午齋。餐後，林館長當場邀集佛堂悅眾與來訪的嘉賓們一起讚佛、念佛、及繞佛，並邀請慧禮法師開示，及 ACC 院童自我介紹，大家交流得非常愉快。

有關此次活動更詳細的報導，請參閱後附讀者投書。



此次 ACC 院童來訪表演，令本館義工大為感動。已有義工發心長期助養院童。據本館所得到的資料，助養一名孤兒，每年僅需美金 \$240 元。有意願助養非洲孤兒的朋友，請參考美國阿彌陀佛慈善中心的網頁 <http://www.acc.org.tw>，或直接與滿冠法師聯絡。電話：(626) 264-2827；email: manquan108@gmail.com。

The performance of the African orphans in the Chicago area, which was a stop of the Goodwill Mission 2014-From Taiwan with Love in Africa program, was successfully completed on July 24. The Pure Land Center & Buddhist Library (our center) was the co-sponsor of this event.

The twelve children who performed were led by Venerable Huili and six sponsors from the Amitofo Care Center (ACC) in Africa. Our center was one of the planners; therefore, it was well prepared for this visit. In the morning of July 24, Director Lin, Co-director Tan, along with more than ten volunteers from our center and their children accompanied the special guests to visit the famous Cantigny Park in west suburban Chicago. The children climbed up on the tops of the tanks in the park and toured the First Division Museum to experience the simulated battlefield conditions. Everyone enjoyed the outing very much.



The children enjoyed the lunch with more than twenty volunteers at our center. Director Lin gathered our center's instrument team and, together with the guests and others in the Center, everyone prostrated to and praised the Buddha, and chanted the Buddha's name. Director Lin also invited Venerable Huili to give a short talk and the ACC children to introduce themselves. Everyone enjoyed the time together.

For more activity details, please refer to the articles from the readers at the end of this publication.

The ACC children's visit greatly moved the volunteers of our center. A few volunteers have already committed to long-term sponsorship of the children in the ACC. According to the information our center received, to sponsor a child only requires US \$240 for a year; this covers all their needs. For those who are willing to sponsor African orphans, please visit the website of US Amitofo Charity Center (US ACC) at <http://www.acc.org.tw>, or contact Venerable Manquan directly at (626) 264-2827 or via email at manquan108@gmail.com.

讀者投書—“阿彌陀佛關懷中心”院童來芝加哥訪問表演

From the Reader—Children from Amitofo Care Center Visited Chicago and Performed

• 李萍 (Ping Li)

• 譚祖德翻譯 (Translation by Bert Tan)

“有朋自遠方來，不亦樂乎”，7月24日淨土念佛堂及圖書館接待了遠從非洲來訪的一群特別的朋友。他們是由慧禮法師帶領，來自非洲馬拉威“阿彌陀佛關懷中心”(簡稱ACC)的一群小朋友。“阿彌陀佛關懷中心”是由臺灣的慧禮法師於2004年成立的國際非盈利慈善組織，主要服務非洲失去父母的孤兒。第一個“阿彌陀佛關懷中心”設立於馬拉威，目前收養了逾三百位孤兒；另兩個“阿彌陀佛關懷中心”分設於賴索托及史瓦濟蘭。ACC深深懂得“授人以魚，不如授人以漁”的道理，所以ACC不僅對收養的院童提供慈善照顧，更著重對院童的全方位教育。希望通過對院童長期人格的培養及知識的傳授，待未來孩子們長大成人後，能用知識與智慧改變目前非洲大地貧窮病苦的命運。

每年寒暑假，慧禮法師及義工都會帶ACC的孩子們去多個國家做慈善巡迴演出。一來向廣大助養人表達感恩，二來也是希望讓更多的人知道非洲還有無數孤兒等待救援。此次是ACC首次來到北美演出，對院童們意義重大。這些以中華傳統文化與大乘佛教教養的非洲孩子，個個會說流利的中文，背誦弟子規。他們的行為舉止也非常的禮貌得體。



淨土念佛堂及圖書館作為此次ACC訪問表演活動芝加哥站的協辦單位，主要負責訪問團的住宿安排。林麗淑館長及譚祖德副館長更於7月24日上午帶領ACC訪問團至Cantigny Park旅遊參訪。幾位淨土念佛堂的義工及義工子女也隨行參加，與ACC的孩子們交流互動。中午淨土念佛堂準備了營養可口的午齋招待ACC訪問團。ACC的孩子們每天晨鐘暮鼓，早晚課一日不缺。作為同修大乘佛教的道友，淨土念佛堂特別安排

與訪問團進行了簡短的念佛共修，與來自非洲的孩子共同禮佛、讚佛、及念佛，這種經歷讓所有參加的義工倍覺難得與珍貴，更讓同修們對佛法在非洲大地的傳播弘揚充滿信心與喜悅。

當晚七點，ACC訪問團的表演準時於Wentz Concert Hall of North Central College拉開帷幕。當晚來自大芝加哥地區近八百名華人及美國友人參加了表演晚會。孩子們奔放的非洲舞蹈，字正腔圓的中文朗誦與歌唱，以及一招一式充滿力量的少林功夫表演打動了所有的觀眾。臺上間插播放的非洲窮苦兒童的視頻深深震撼了臺下的觀眾。近三個小時的表演，十二名孩子用精彩的表演向人們展示了他們在ACC數年的學習成果。孩子們表演的成功，讓人不禁感慨敬佩教養這些孩子的法師和諸多長住在ACC的義工們付出了怎樣的心血。

感謝 ACC 的這次到訪,讓我們了解到在蠻荒動亂的非洲,有那麼多需要幫助的孩子,有那麼一群無私的人效仿佛菩薩的大慈大悲為真正改變非洲現狀而奉獻著。ACC 的官方網站是 www.acc.org.tw。

“Having friends visiting from far, what a joy it will be!” On July 24, 2014, the Pure Land Center & Buddhist Library received a special group visit all the way from Africa. The group consisted of children from the Amitofo Care Center (ACC) in Malawi, led by Venerable Huili. The ACC was established in 2004 by Venerable Huili from Taiwan as a charitable organization. It serves the orphans in Africa. The first center was established in Malawi, which currently provides homes for more than 300 orphans. Two other centers are in Lesotho and Swaziland. The ACC fully understands “Instead of giving others fish, it would be better to teach them how to fish.” Therefore, the ACC not only takes good care of the children, it also focuses on providing them with a well-rounded education. Through the long-term nurturing of the children’s personalities, knowledge, and skills, it is hoped that when grown, they will be able to wisely apply what they have learned to help eliminate famine and poverty in Africa.



Every summer and winter break, Venerable Huili and the ACC volunteers take the children to visit various countries where the children perform. They not only show their appreciation to the sponsors, they also wish to remind people that there are still more orphans in Africa awaiting helping hands. This is the first time the ACC children have come to North America to perform, which meant a lot to the children. They grew up having learned both the traditional Chinese cultural education as well as the Mahayana teachings. Everyone speaks fluent Chinese and is even capable of reciting *Guidelines for Being a Good Person (Di Zi Gui)* from memory! Their behavior was very courteous and proper.



The Pure Land Center & Buddhist Library, being the co-sponsor for the ACC group’s visit and performance in the Chicago area, arranged the lodging for this group. Director Lin and Co-director Tan brought the ACC group to Cantigny Park where they were joined by some volunteers from the Pure Land Center and their children. The children all played together. The Pure Land Center also prepared a delicious lunch for the ACC group. These children never neglect their morning practice and the evening practice even on trips. Being Mahayana Dharma friends, the Pure Land Center

also scheduled a short chanting session. Together with these children, we all prostrated to and praised the Buddha, and chanted the Buddha’s name. For the Pure Land Center volunteers, this was a unique experience. Moreover, it enabled us to feel full of confidence and joy that the Buddhist teachings can be widely spread and are taking root in Africa.

In the evening, the ACC performance began at seven o’clock in Wentz Hall of North Central College in Naperville. There were eight hundred people in the audience from the Greater Chicago Area. The energetic African dancing of the children, the accurate tones of their clear and well-enunciated Chinese reading and singing, the powerful martial art movements of the children greatly impressed the audience. The short video clips that were played along with their performance astonished and

deeply moved the audience. In the approximately three-hour program, these twelve youngsters' superb performance demonstrated to everyone their fruitful learning in the ACC within just a few years. By seeing their performance, we sincerely praise the Venerables and the residential volunteers in the ACC for their compassion and devotion in teaching these children.

We are very thankful to the ACC group for their having visited us. They reminded us that there are many more children in Africa still in need of help and that there is a selfless group of individuals with the bodhisattvas' great compassionate mind devoted to helping change the conditions of poverty in Africa. The ACC's website is: <http://www.acc.org.tw>.

From the Reader—A Unique Experience

• Helen Mach & Brook Chan

This was a very unique and special occasion!!

On July 24, 2014, twelve children from Africa traveled to the Chicago area as part of the Goodwill Mission 2014-From Taiwan with Love in Africa. These children were raised as orphans through the Amitofo Care Center (ACC) and Venerable Huili due to poor living conditions in Africa. Under the care of the ACC, the children were taught how to read and write Chinese. They also learned how to practice Buddhism, *Standards for Being a Good Student (Di Zi Gui)*, poems from the Tang dynasty, Chinese martial arts, and singing.



In Chicagoland, the Pure Land Center and Buddhist Library welcomed the children and Venerable Huili by taking guests and members to Cantigny Park where they took pictures with the tanks and visited the museum and learned about the history of the park. Upon leaving the park, guests and members were provided lunch at our center. After lunch, guests and members of our center participated in chanting meditation after which the children introduced themselves.

In the evening, the children put on an incredible performance at Wentz Concert Hall at North Central College. They sang songs in Chinese and Taiwanese, and performed stories of the living conditions that children face in Africa. They also demonstrated their martial art skills through an action-packed performance. At the end of the evening, they sang "We are the World" on stage, and the children of the Di Zi Gui class of our center presented flowers to the twelve children from Africa. The performances, particularly the stories that depicted the living conditions and experiences of the children, evoked a lot of emotion of the hardships that they face. It was touching to watch stories of how the children were cared for and taught at the ACC. In addition, the martial arts performances were exciting to watch, and the children sang many songs beautifully. The children of the ACC received a well-deserved round of applause for their great performance and hard work.

Not only was the event fun to watch, but it was also eye-opening for the audience to see the difficulties the children faced and their resilience as well as to witness the compassion of Venerable Huili as he nurtured, cared for, and taught these children to become successful adults. Even though these children face hard training they are still like other children, laughing, playing and joking around. This event was an amazing experience. We learned about the difficult life of a child prior to ACC homed the child. We cried over the hard times they had. We also laughed at their jokes. The Goodwill Mission 2014 was a successful event.