

他們真的從烏干達來了！

They Really Came All the Way from Uganda!

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編按：這次烏干達兒童的來訪，幾名培德女中的學生擔任了穿針引線的重要角色。三年前培德女中九年級的學生，從道德課中瞭解了非洲兒童因愛滋病、饑荒和戰爭所受的種種苦難，因而發心想為他們做些事情。學生們發現了「Children of Uganda」這個幫助烏干達兒童的組織，並通過這個組織認養了兩位烏干達的小女孩，讓她們上學讀書。三年後儘管一些學生畢業了，但這份資助卻從未間斷。目前就讀十二年級的張瑜庭，是當年的發起人之一。去年她在臺灣華南扶輪社一場精彩動人的演說，讓扶輪社的社員慷慨解囊，募集了五千元幫助烏干達兒童，也促成了這次兩地年輕人的接觸交流。以下就是她的心得報告。

Editor's note: The Children of Uganda's arrival at CTTB was part of a long term plan by a few dedicated students of our girls' school. It started three years ago when our ninth graders learned in their ethics class that children in Uganda lived a tumultuous life due to many local hardships such as HIV, famine, and war. As a consequence, our girls' school students determined to take action to alleviate some of their misfortune. They soon discovered the 'Children of Uganda' whose goal is to provide assistance to the vulnerable Ugandan children. The girls contacted the organization and managed to successfully help two of the Ugandan girls, placing them at an appropriate local school. Over the next three years and despite the fact that some of our girls have since graduated, the support to the Ugandan children never ceased. Christine Chang, a current senior at our high school and a founding member of the initiative, gave a moving speech last year in Taiwan. Her talk drew a \$5,000 donation from the members of the Huanan Rotary Club, all of which went directly to support the young Ugandans. This donation has strongly enhanced the exchange program and further strengthened the friendship of these young people. Below are her thoughts on the event.

「他們來了！」

「真的嗎？他們真的從烏干達來了嗎？」

一進總辦公室看到從烏干達來的朋友，雖然從未謀面，但相見的那一剎那，我感覺他們好像在人生中陪伴我好久好久，有種似曾相識的感覺。

他們一早到了聖城，先參觀聖城的展示中心，在那兒培德中學的男女學生輪流介紹聖城的由來、上人的事蹟和佛教的歷史。離開展示中心，我們又一起參觀有機農場和佛殿。

中午，男女校的師生和烏干達朋友在大齋堂共進午餐。一位名叫Constance的烏干達男孩模仿一位好萊塢明星，大家看得都笑到東倒西歪。雖然最後還是沒猜出他模仿的是誰，但當大家一起聊天時，感覺就像一家人——什麼都可以說，不用擔心被批評或是懷疑。

"They are here!"

"Really? Did they really fly all the way here from Uganda?"

When I first walked into the office and saw the Ugandans, they seemed so familiar to me despite the fact that we had never met before. It felt like they had been in my life for such a long time; it felt like I had known them!

As they arrived to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, girls and boys from Developing Virtue Secondary School led them into the Exhibition Hall and gave a short introduction about the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, the history of Buddhism, and the Venerable Master. After they were done, we went to the organic farm and Buddha Hall.

During lunch, the teachers, students, and Ugandans ate together in the Dining Hall. One of the Ugandans, Constance, started to mimic a star from Hollywood. While she was mimicking, every one of us were laughing so hard. Although we didn't guess the person

用完餐，他們在男女校上了生平第一堂中文課。一位烏干達女孩Jane Nanfuka告訴我，她好喜歡寫書法，更喜歡講中文，真希望趕快回到烏干達跟她的朋友分享！聽到這兒，我的心感覺好溫暖——因為喜歡中國文化的關係，更拉近我們彼此的距離。

下午三點節目開始，首先是培德男女校的表演。從他們觀賞表演的眼神裡，我彷彿見到了另外一個世界。對他們來說，男校的舞龍舞獅、二十四令鼓，以及女校太極舞、劍舞和千手觀音舞，這些中國傳統的表演是非常新奇的。

男女校表演結束，就輪到了今天的主角——烏干達小孩出場。當他們換上烏干達傳統服裝走出來時，我的眼眶濕了！三年前讀到他們不幸的遭遇，促使我去認識接觸這群地球另一端的孩子；此刻站在眼前的，是充滿自信與朝氣的少年。我好感動，他們是這麼地勇敢堅強，將所經歷的痛苦與不幸，昇華為美麗的藝術獻給世界。

從二〇〇九年開始，我和另外三位同學發起一個「烏干達計劃」，募款認養兩位烏干達的女孩，讓她們去學校上學。這三年的歲月中，因為這個計劃，使我對人生觀有更深一層的思考。

記得有一次，我們到超級市場前義賣壽司和珍珠奶茶，我拿著自己做的募款箱，對來往的行人大喊：「您願意贊助我們的計劃嗎？」就在這時候，一位中年男子向我走來。因為站在太陽底下反光的緣故，我看不清楚他臉上的表情，所以還是滿懷笑臉地對他說：「您願意贊助我們的計劃嗎？」想不到他一開口就說：「你憑什麼站在這裡跟人家要錢？又憑什麼叫我相信妳不會拿這個錢去做別的事情？」當時我被這樣一問，真的傻了！是啊，我憑什麼叫這些非親非故的人給我錢？又憑什麼叫他們在乎我所在乎的事情呢？於是我對自己說：「好好地在學校讀書就好了，幹嘛來這裡給人家受氣？快收一收東西回家吧！」

但是心裡又有另一個聲音說：「如果全世界的人都抱著懷疑的態度，不相信這些錢真的可以點燃這些小孩生命中一個希望，不相信這些錢可以買一本書，讓他們在課本裡學到「愛」這個字以及它的意義，這樣他們長大以後就不會像大人一樣打打殺殺，因為他們瞭解愛的力量；如果……」想到這兒心中就突然有股力量，一定要告訴他我的動機。

於是我卯足勇氣，非常鎮定地回答他的問題。這時候，我看他的左手伸進外套裡不知道要拿甚麼東西，當時我嚇壞了，心想這回小命不保了！但是沒想到，他掏出的竟然是二十塊錢，就悄悄地塞進

whom she was mimicking, we were just like a family when we were talking. We were able to say things without being judged or criticized.

After lunch, the Ugandans went to their first Chinese class in their lives. A Ugandan named Jane Nanfuka told me that she loved Chinese calligraphy and also liked to speak in Chinese. She couldn't wait to go back to Uganda to share the experience with her friends! When I was listening to her, my heart was warmed by her words—I felt that I was even closer to them because of their affection for Chinese culture.

At three in the afternoon, the program started with spectacular performances given by the Boys School and Girls School students. While enjoying their performances, I looked at the Ugandans' faces. In their eyes, I saw a different world. The Boys School's twenty-four season drumming, dragon dance, lion dance; and the Girls School's Guanyin dance, Chinese sword dance, and tai chi dance were all such novel things in their eyes.

After enjoying the performances given by our students, it was the Ugandan visitors' time to perform. When the dancers started to walk onto the stage with their traditional clothes, my eyes became teary. I remembered that my first acquaintance with them was because of their unfortunate background and heartbreaking stories. But, at that moment, I saw the most confident, beautiful side of them on the stage. I was so touched by it. The way they presented themselves was so brave and powerful. They were willing to put the "self" aside, their unfortunate backgrounds aside, and they gave the audience the best performance they could.

Since 2009, my three friends and I have been raising funds to support the education of two Ugandan girls. During these three years, because of this plan, it makes me have a deeper reflection upon my value of life.

I remembered there was a time when we decided to raise money by selling boba milk tea and vegetarian sushi in front of a supermarket. As we tried to sell the food, a man walked towards me. I couldn't see his face clearly due to the reflection of the sun, but I still said the same thing to him with a smile, "Would you like to donate some money?" He said, "Why do you even think people would donate money to you? How can I trust that you will not use the money to do other things?" I was in shock after he confronted to me. So I asked myself, "How can I expect strangers to give me money? And by what means do I even have the ability to ask them to care about the things I care about in this world?" So I started to talk to myself, "Why do you want to stand here to be questioned by strangers... just study hard in school... pack up your things and go home."

But a voice inside me replied, "What if all human beings are seeing these unfortunate children with a pair of doubtful eyes, and not believing that one penny can really light up a hope in their lives? And, what if that penny can actually give them a chance to buy a book which teaches the meaning of love, and if they truly understand



了我手上的小紙箱。我不敢相信地望著他，對他大喊：「謝謝你，謝謝你！」而我這輩子鞠躬最彎的一次，應該是給了這位陌生人吧！

我好興奮地跑去跟同學講，開心了好一陣子。但是過一會兒回想起整件事，我發現讓我真正開心的，其實並不是那二十塊；而是我對心中那股行善的勇氣感到驕傲——我願意用我全部的力量，去幫助那兩位烏干達小孩，為我所相信的事情而奮鬥。

就像這次活動尾聲時，我們一起合唱的烏干達歌曲「Seed to Sow」，每個人都有一顆等待播下的種子，好好滋潤、照顧它，到時間就能開花結果。我知道和世界上很多偉人做的事情相比，這個「烏干達計劃」是微不足道的；我也知道世界上還有好多小孩心中的希望之光，等著我們去點燃它。然而我更深信，如果當初沒有開始，甚至沒有繼續去幫助那兩位烏干達小孩上學，讓他們在學校裡學到什麼叫做「永不放棄」，學習到什麼叫做「和平」，那麼我將永遠看不到我想要在這個世界上看到的改變！



what love is, they will not choose to fight with each other but truly care for each other...” At that point, there was a kind of power that compelled me to explain my concern to this stranger.

So, I mustered my courage and answered all his doubts with poise. I was emotionally worn out as I used all my energy to make sure that he understood my purpose in standing there that day. Then, I saw him slowly taking something from his pocket with his left hand. I was thinking to myself, “I don’t want to die today.” Unexpectedly, I saw him putting 20 dollars into the donation box. “Thank you” was the only thing I could think to say at the moment. After that, I gave him a full 90 degree bow.

Later, I ran to my friends and told them about this experience. As I recall this memory, I realize that it was not the 20 dollars that made me feel happy, but my courage to fight for what I thought was right that made me feel real happy. At that moment I was willing to use all my energy to help the two Ugandan girls. I was willing to fight for what I believed in.

As the performances came to an end, the Ugandans, along with our students, gathered together to sing the final song “Seed to Sow.” The song describes how each one of us has a seed waiting for us to plant, to nurture and care for until it blossoms.

I know our Uganda Project might not be comparable to things that other great human beings have done in this world, and there are still many children waiting for us to light up the hope in them. However, I deeply believe that the two Ugandan children might not be able to learn the words “never give up” and “peace” if we didn’t continue to support them to go to school. After all, I may never see the change I want to see in this world if I didn’t start changing the things that I want to change.

