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Course: LE 1360 – 005

Opening diverse doors

Final project signature assignment – Great Historical Individual

**Christina Wong, Ming Yan**

**Writing in the dark**



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Introduction:

Christina Wong, Ming Yan is the first visually impaired writer and music artist in Hong Kong. She is greatly talented, having been learning vocal, piano and music since she was young.

Biography:

Christina contracted German measles when she was only 8 months old. Her optic nerves were infected and thus she became blind. She had taken 6 epikeratophakia operations between the ages of three and eight. However, the optical nerves were injured and she couldn't see anything afterwards. The loss of eyesight did not defeat her excels in professional endeavors and contribution to the community. She will continue to promote inclusion through arts in the future.

Being an optimistic person, she works as a devoted volunteer to help other people. Recently, Christina was awarded as one of The Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 2008, as well as The Hong Kong Volunteer Award and the Bauhaus TOUGH 15 Award in 2009.

In 2004, Christina published her first book, 'If You Believe in Fairy Tales'. This novel about the magic of love encourages youth to overcome difficulties and work hard for the future. The first edition was sold out since launch, and was widely covered and acclaimed by the media. Her subsequent books include "The Girl Steps towards the Rainbow"(2006), "LOVE is what we treasure"(2007) and "Seven Stories"(2009). She has also written a number of Chinese songs, including "Hope for Peace", "Brother" and "Heart Song in Silent Night".

Reasons that I choose her as my great historical individual:

Although she was blind, she had much perseverance, optimism and enthusiasm towards her work and life.

Christina has been representing Hong Kong for various events. She, through her book, motivates the youth to get the power to face and overcome our difficulties in life, and spread the deep, important message to every corner of the community.

Christina has influences me quite a lot. She makes me believe that nothing is impossible! Even though people are disabled, they can still strive for high goals. We should never give up easily. Never commit suicide and break God’s commandments. Life is a great gift graciously given at birth, so we should treasure this present.

The first time that I knew this lady is when I was about 17 years old. At that moment, I was preparing the most important public examination in Hong Kong, Hong Kong Advanced level examination (HKALE). I really had a very hard time for preparing the examination. There was too much stuff that I had to memorize and I did not believe I could do it. My school had invited her to have a lecture for us. She encouraged us by telling us the process of how she becomes successful. After listening to her background and her success, I was so impressed and moved. She made me believe that nothing is impossible if we try our best. “It is normal to have failure or difficulties sometimes, and they do not matter. What really substantial is how do we overcome them and can we maintain a positive and active attitude to them”, she said. She made me understand that nobody is perfect, we have to make use of our strengths in order to make up for, or offset our imperfection.

Moreover, Christina makes me believe that people can influence each other. In order to construct a better society, she advocates social harmony through the promotion of art and education. Christina is also dedicated to develop and cultivate people's awareness of morality, arts and emotional intelligence.

Through the talks, workshops and artistic performances, Christina hopes to share the message of positive thinking with the community. Since Christina is convinced that "Change the world. Change yourself", she had been visited over 100 educational, civil and commercial organizations in order to promote social harmony and equality.

Christina hopes to encourage people by sharing her own experience, though the power of one person is very limited, therefore Christina would like to invite all of us to spread the positive message through cooperation.

To me, Christina is a successful person, though she is not a rich lady or she does not have a very high position in society. Success, as what we learn in this class, is defines as the process of archiving our goals. The process of how she overcame her difficulties, and turning her infortune to her success is what we concern most.

Actually she had a very hard time when she was told she would be blind permanently. She was so depressed, disappointed. She was not willing to communicate and always hidden herself in her bedroom but not going out. What momentously changed her is the visiting to India. She went there for 5 times, and she found that people there were so happy even though they are very poor, and having the famine and starvation problems. This made her understand that there are much more people who are poorer than her. She is not the poorest one. She can still have a bright and shinny life.

Afterwards, though Christina cannot see how colorful the world is; however, she still lives positively and tries to feel how beautiful the world is. Furthermore, she always sets a very clear goal. She knows what she wants. She likes writing and wanted to be a writer, she studied even harder and harder to achieve her goal, and finally she did it very successfully. Then she made another goal further, she wants to contribute society and influence people by conveying the “positive thinking” message. So she joins various events to spread this message in different ways, through music, painting and so on. Through achieving her different goals, she has great improvements and it makes her never stop learning as well.

In addition, no one is perfect. Christina makes me understand as long as we focus on our goals and put as much effort as we can, imperfect people will be successful one day eventually.

To conclude, I am very impressed by Christina’s positive living attitude. She had an unfortunate life experience but she becomes a successful lady eventually after her so much efforts. Whenever I have a hard time, I will think of her and I will be tough and strong again by telling myself “I can do it” to face and overcome the problems. Her encouraging remarks inspired confidence in me. Therefore, I think she is a great historical individual and I will introduce her to all of my friends, or anyone who feels depressed because of having some problems.

Source:

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