Transcript: Sin-Hong Lin

Sin-Hong Lin singing in a YouTube video: “You are my bright eyes that take me to appreciate the four seasons. You are my bright eyes that take me to cross the crowded streets.”

Please tell me your name and your current job.

My name is Sin-Hong Lin. I have three jobs. First, I am a music performer, a busker, and the vocalist of the band. I also perform at some commercial events. Then, about my second job, I work at a social enterprise called “Dialogue in the Dark”. I am the senior education trainer for this organization. Third, I used to be a masseur when I just started to lose my sight. So, I am a masseur, too.

Which part of your job do you enjoy most?

I enjoy work because, at work, I help people to solve their problems. My greatest achievement is the acknowledgment and feedback from people. Many people are unhappy at work because they do not get a sense of achievement in their job. Take me as an example. People enjoy my singing and feel happy when they listen to my music performance. As a trainer, I help people to find out their blind spots and to get improved. As a masseur, I help people to relax their bodies. When they show their appreciation and affirmation to me, I get a sense of achievements.

Would you tell us your vision conditions?

When I was 20, my father realized my eyes condition was even worse than expected, so he brought me to a vision test. At that time, I couldn’t see clearly for a while. But I didn’t know what was happening. Then I was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a genetic disease from my family. During the time, I could still see people’s face, people’s facial expressions, and their body shapes roughly in about one meter away. But I couldn’t see whether there is a pimple on your face or not. Although I couldn’t see clearly, I was able to know how you looked roughly. I could even read a normal font size word. For example, I could read the content of the newspapers. Then when I was 25years old, I could only read the subheadings in the newspapers. When I was 27 or 28 years old, I could only read the title of the newspapers. After I turned to 30 years old, I couldn’t read printed words anymore. Until now, I only have my light perception left. I can’t see any image of you.

Regarding your vision conditions, what are the differences in your thoughts compared to the past?

My perspective is unique. How will you feel when you focus on the fact that you are losing sight, or you are going to be blind? Fear, anxiety, helplessness, right? However, when I lost my sight, I focused on what I could do. When focusing on positive things, the results will be different. After I turned to 30 years old, I could no longer see any image. However, I focused on what I could do. So, I can still play baseball, dance, participate in marathons, work as an education trainer, sing, and provide massage therapy. There are still many things I can do.

What makes me different from the others? I would like to say that when you focus on positive thinking, the result gets better. When you focus on the difficulties, you always feel difficult. When you focus on the opportunities, you will always get an opportunity.

What helps you be determined to pursue your dream?

In 2016, I was invited by two of my friends to form a band called “Belief in the Classic.” The ‘Belief’ and ‘Classic’ are the style we want to present. As long as my fans and families like my song, I will keep singing. In 2017, I finally had my first concert at the Zhongshan Concert Hall.

What suggestions would you like to provide for individuals with visual impairments?

How you position yourself determines how other people identify you. When I treat myself as a person with visual impairment, others would feel the same way. Now, I treat myself as an artist, then everyone sees me as an artist. It means you are what you think you are. All persons with visual impairment should bear that attitude in mind. No matter what your dream is, you want to be a masseur or whatever else, don’t ever let the fact of visual impairment limit your dream. You should focus on the part you want to be seen. If you persevere, you will become what you believe.

I want to let the elderly have nice memories when they hear my songs, and I want to bring hope to youngsters. I also want to become a role model for people with disabilities.

Again, My name is Sin-Hong Lee and I reside in Taiwan.

Thanks for watching. (Sin-Hong sings in the background.)